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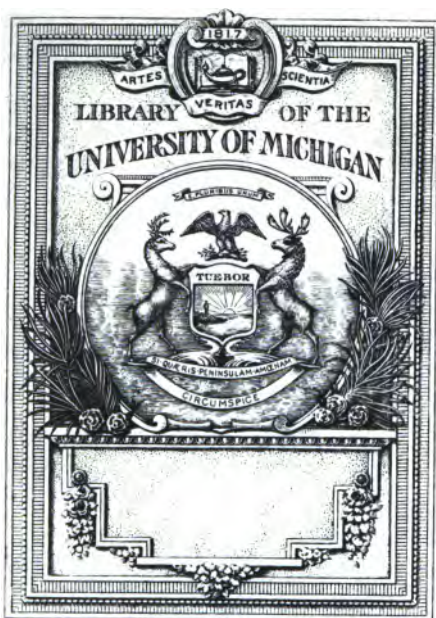
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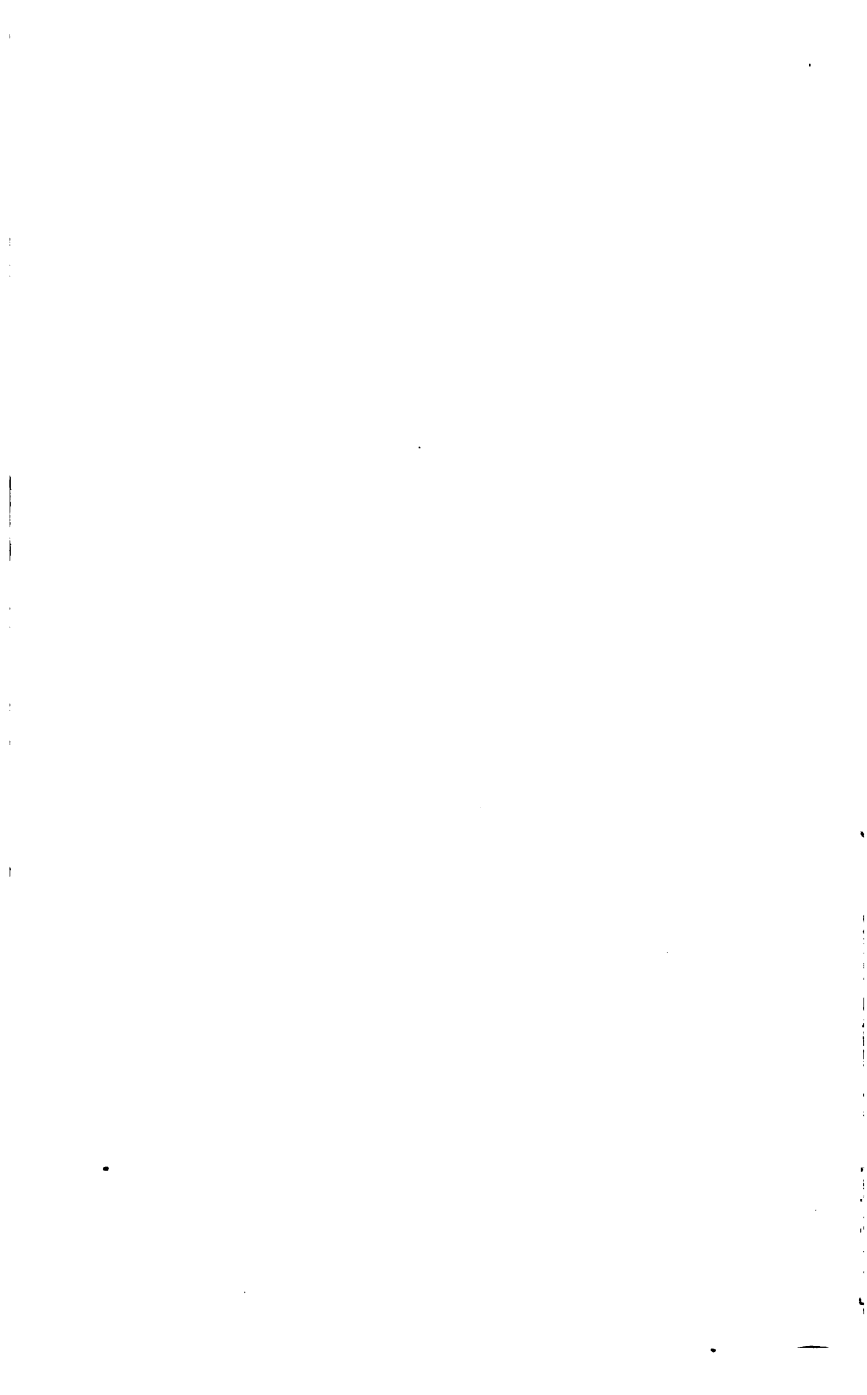
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*Alfred E. Chalon R.A. Pinxt*

*Henry Meyer Sculp<sup>t</sup>*

*His Serene Highness,*  
*Leopold, George, Christian, Frederick*  
**DUKE OF SAXONY,**  
*Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha*



A  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT,  
INTERSPERSED WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES,  
OF THE  
**HOUSE OF SAXONY,**  
TRACING THE  
DESCENT OF THE PRESENT ROYAL AND DUCAL BRANCHES;  
AND CONTAINING  
A MEMOIR OF THE LIFE  
OF  
*HIS SERENE HIGHNESS*  
**Leopold George Christian Frederic,**  
DUKE OF SAXONY,  
PRINCE OF SAXE-COBURG-SAALFELD.

---

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION  
TO  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
**THE PRINCE REGENT**  
OF THE  
*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.*

---

BY FREDERIC SHOBERL.

---

EMBELLISHED WITH PORTRAITS.

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**London:**  
PRINTED FOR R. ACKERMANN, 101, STRAND,  
BY W. CLOWES, NORTHUMBERLAND-COURT, STRAND.

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Richard C. Stephens  
9-23-44

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

**The Prince Regent**

*Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.*

Sir,

At a moment when the congratulations of all classes of his Majesty's subjects upon the auspicious marriage of your Royal Daughter, attest their affection for the illustrious family from which she is descended; an individual, whose veneration for that family is equalled only by the love that he bears to the country which gave him birth, and whose best efforts are employed to excite in others similar sentiments of loyalty and patriotism, presumes to lay this work at the feet of your Royal Highness. It is a humble but well-meant endeavour to make the British nation better acquainted with the connections and character of the amiable prince to whom your

619-23-44

AS

*Royal Highness has entrusted an only child, the  
dearest treasure that even a monarch can bestow.*

*As such he solicits for it the indulgence of your  
Royal Highness, whom he assures that he is*

*With the warmest attachment,  
and the profoundest respect,  
Your Royal Highness's  
most faithful and most devoted Servant,  
F. SHOBERL.*

## PREFACE



WHEN the idea of this work first suggested itself, I contemplated nothing more than a selection of amusing anecdotes relative to the ancient house of SAXONY. It soon occurred to me however, that by skimming as it were the surface of history, by the introduction of a few preliminary observations, and by exhibiting the succession of the princes of the different branches of that illustrious House, a small volume might be produced combining instruction with entertainment, and calculated to gratify every class of readers. How far I have accomplished this object must be left to the decision of the public.

In regard to the literary execution, I claim no other merit than that of industry. I have

made the best use of such materials as I could procure, and these being wholly foreign, and therefore not easily accessible in this country, I flatter myself that I have brought together a collection of facts which will at least possess the recommendation of novelty.

It is not unlikely that the subject which I have chosen may be thought to deserve graver consideration than it has received at my hands. I acknowledge that it does, and regret that my avocations will not permit me to engage in such a speculation. The native country of the ancestors of the English nation; the land from which we derive many of those institutions on which we still justly pride ourselves; the cradle of that Reformation, which, like the sun bursting from amidst the gloom of worse than Egyptian darkness, dispelled the clouds of superstition that had for ages enveloped the human mind, diffused correct notions of liberty, civil as well as religious, and paved the way to those prodigious improvements

in arts, sciences, and the state of society in general, which have marked the progress of the last three centuries, is certainly a theme worthy of the pen of the professed historian: and happy shall I be, if my unassuming performance shall stimulate one possessing more leisure and superior talents to undertake the task. The field is ample, and would, I am persuaded, richly reward the assiduous cultivator.

In such of these pages as relate to our own times, the intelligent observer will easily perceive that I have not drawn upon the frivolous gossip of idle rumour. Indeed the names of those with whose communications I have been honoured in this portion of the work, were I permitted to mention them, would not fail to stamp upon it a value that would be duly appreciated by the future historian and biographer.

It is a tribute due to Mr. ACKERMANN the publisher, whose late humane, successful, and honourable efforts in behalf of the suffer-

ing SAXON nation\* have been acknowledged in the most flattering terms by the highest characters both at home and abroad, to state that for the communications to which I have alluded, the reader is entirely indebted to his active personal exertions and influence. To that public spirit which animates him in all his undertakings must also be attributed the addition of the embellishments. These portraits will, it is presumed, be considered a pleasing accompaniment to this volume. Belonging chiefly to the era of the Reformation, they are highly curious as copies of paintings of the most zealous supporters of that measure by an eminent contemporary artist, and also interesting as memorials of the costume of the early part of the sixteenth century. The por-

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\* It is scarcely necessary to remark, that to the active philanthropy of Mr. Ackermann, the munificent subscription raised in England for the Germans, reduced to the most abject distress by the destructive campaign of 1813, owed its origin, and no small portion of its success.

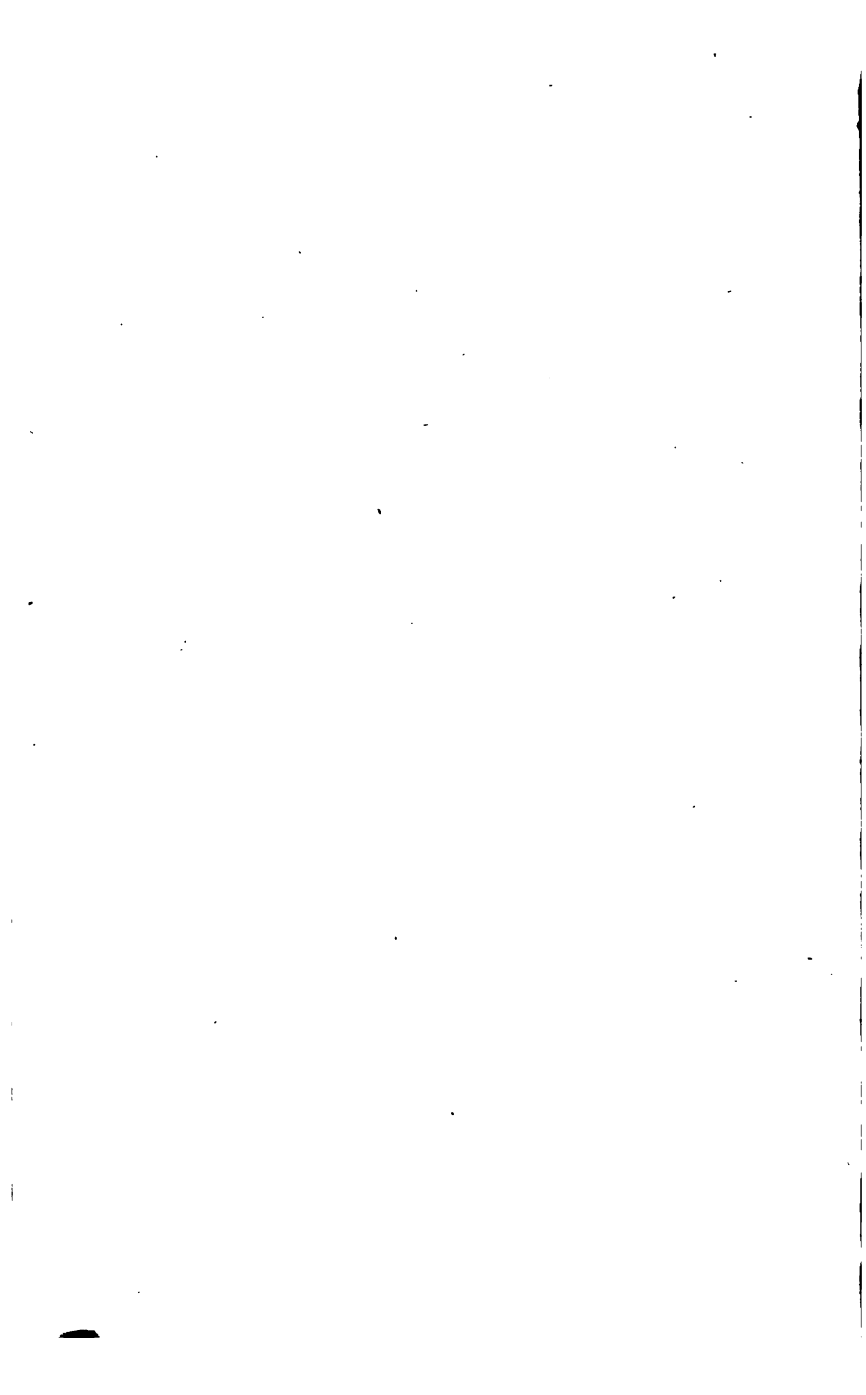


trait of prince LEOPOLD is engraved by MEYER, from the first picture for which his highness sat after his arrival in this country ; and those who are at all conversant with the merits of living artists will need no other pledge for its being a faithful likeness than the information that it is from the able pencil of Mr. A. CHALON. The original is a whole-length picture in the present exhibition of the Royal Academy, an engraving of which is in considerable forwardness.

Should this little work be deemed worthy of the public approbation, I shall cheerfully ascribe its success to the zeal and the ability of such assistants, and to the popularity of the subject, rather than to any merit in my share of the performance.

F. S.

LONDON, May 24, 1816.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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VARIOUS have been the opinions respecting the origin of the name of *Saxons*, but its most probable derivation seems to be from the term *Sassen* or *Satten*, which in the Lower Saxon dialect is equivalent to our *settlers*\*. In very ancient histories we find mention of the *Holsatten*, or *Holzassen* (whence *Holsatia* or *Holstein*), and likewise of the *Elsassen* (whence *Alsace*), or the *settlers in the woods*, and those about the river *Ill*. Hence it is not improbable that the Germans denominated these people *West-sassen*, *East-sassen*†, from their situation, or merely *Sassen* or *Sachsen*, from their *permanent settlements*.

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\* In the dialect of the north of England, the word *settle* is at this day pronounced *sattle*.

† Similar distinctions were assigned by our Saxon forefathers to some of the kingdoms of the heptarchy, and are still retained in the names of *Essex*, *Sussex*, and *Middlesex*, or the *East*, *South*, and *Middle Saxons*.

Be this as it may, so much is certain, that Ptolemy is the first writer, who, in the second century of the Christian era, makes mention of the Saxons as inhabiting the Cimbrian peninsula, and he is followed by Eutropius and Orosius in the third. From that peninsula (the modern kingdom of Denmark) they extended themselves over Westphalia to the Rhine and the Netherlands; so that, according to the testimony of Adam of Bremen, they had for their immediate neighbours, on the south the Franks and Thuringians, on the north the Normans, on the east the Obotrites, and on the west the Frisians. They were divided into Westphalians, Angrivarians, and Eastphalians; the first residing in the modern Westphalia; the second in the Duchy of Engern, the present Lüneburg; and the last beyond the Elbe, in the present Margraviate of Brandenburg, part of Meissen and Mecklenburg, till they were driven farther by the invading Vandals. Each of these three nations had its distinct ruler, to whom different writers give the various appellations of Prince, Duke, King, Tetrarch, Satrap, and others equally indefinite.

In the fourth century the Saxons, in common with the Franks and Allemans, made incursions into Gaul, and displayed great valour in their contests with the Romans. They acquired still greater fame by their expedition to Britain. This island was so completely drained by the Roman emperors of the flower of its male population, that about the middle of the fifth century the remaining inhabitants were incapable of repressing the inroads of their northern neighbours the Picts and Scots. In this situation they applied for succour to the Roman general in Gaul; but the whole force of the empire was too much engaged in defending the continent against the invading hordes of Scythians, Goths, and other barbarians, to bestow any attention upon a distant island. The Britons in their distress then had recourse to the Saxons and Angrians\*, bordering upon the sea, and by their solicitations at length prevailed.

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\* It is a remarkable fact, though I believe not hitherto noticed by historians, that the same province of Germany, whence issued in the fifth century the Saxon ancestors of the English nation, should more than 1200 years afterwards, have given sovereigns to that nation in the illustrious line which now sways the British sceptre.

upon the two princes Hengst and Horst to lend their assistance. These soon drove the Picts and Scots within their proper bounds; and having once gained a footing, they sent home for reinforcements, and gradually made themselves masters of the whole of South Britain, to which they gave the name of *Engernland* or *England*. Here they of course introduced their native language and manners, and founded seven distinct kingdoms, which at the commencement of the ninth century were united under one head.

Soon after this memorable expedition to Britain, the Saxons were involved in wars with the Franks, whose power was so superior to theirs, that in 480 they were conquered by King Childeric, and as it would appear, made tributary by him, or some other Frankish monarch. The Franks, however, could not so completely subdue them, but that, as soon as the conquerors had turned their backs, they again flew to arms; till at last Charlemagne, after a long and obstinate contest with Wittekind, reduced them entirely under his dominion.

Wittekind was of a distinguished Saxon



family; his usual residence was his patrimonial domain of Engern, an ancient castle in Westphalia, no traces of which are now extant. His superior understanding and extraordinary talents for war, gained him such consideration among his countrymen, the Angrivarians, that they intrusted him when at home with the government, and selected him for their general in the sanguinary wars in which they were engaged with the Danes and Charlemagne.

Various were the causes of the war between the Emperor and Wittekind, which lasted thirty-three years. Charles was acquainted with the spirit, valour, and strength, of the Saxons. He was piqued that the Franks had never been able entirely to subdue them, and felt that till their complete subjugation, his imperial authority rested on an insecure foundation. The Saxons had moreover refused the payment of the stipulated tribute, and had attacked his allies, the Thuringians. Added to all this, they were yet addicted to the pagan idolatry, to the extermination of which he was instigated by the

pope. The Saxons, however, were not so blind as not to perceive Charles's real motive. As they had imbibed with their mothers' milk an ardent love of liberty and of their ancient superstitions, — as the Catholic priests were more solicitous for the baptism than for the real conversion of proselytes, and led a life of such debauchery as rendered the Christian religion odious to the heathen, — the Saxons soon discovered that the Franks were more desirous to gain possession of their country than to teach them a purer faith. During the war which ensued, Wittekind afforded an example that an enemy is not always subdued by the loss of one battle, or so far reduced as to be unable to retrieve his affairs. Both nations were tolerably equal if not in force at least in valour; and though Charles finally overran the country of his enemies, there were no fortresses by means of which he could hold it in subjection. On the first opportunity they renounced the promised obedience, and if they were favoured by the season, or no army happened to be at hand, they recruited their strength to such a degree

that it required a new war to enforce their submission. This being the case it is not matter of surprise that the hostilities between the two nations should have continued, with short intervals of repose, for 33 years. At length the Saxons, disheartened by the loss of several battles and of all the tenable positions on the Weser and near the mouth of the Elbe, submitted to the conqueror; and it was agreed, as Eginhard relates, that they should form one people with the Franks, but yet retain their peculiar laws and constitution. As a pledge of their future allegiance, Charles carried with him many Saxons of distinction, and left in Saxony a considerable number of Franks in their stead. With a view to civilize the rude minds of his new subjects he founded bishoprics and divided the country into various districts, which he intrusted to the government of counts. By this policy he broke that power which, if united under one man, might have proved dangerous to his hardly acquired authority.

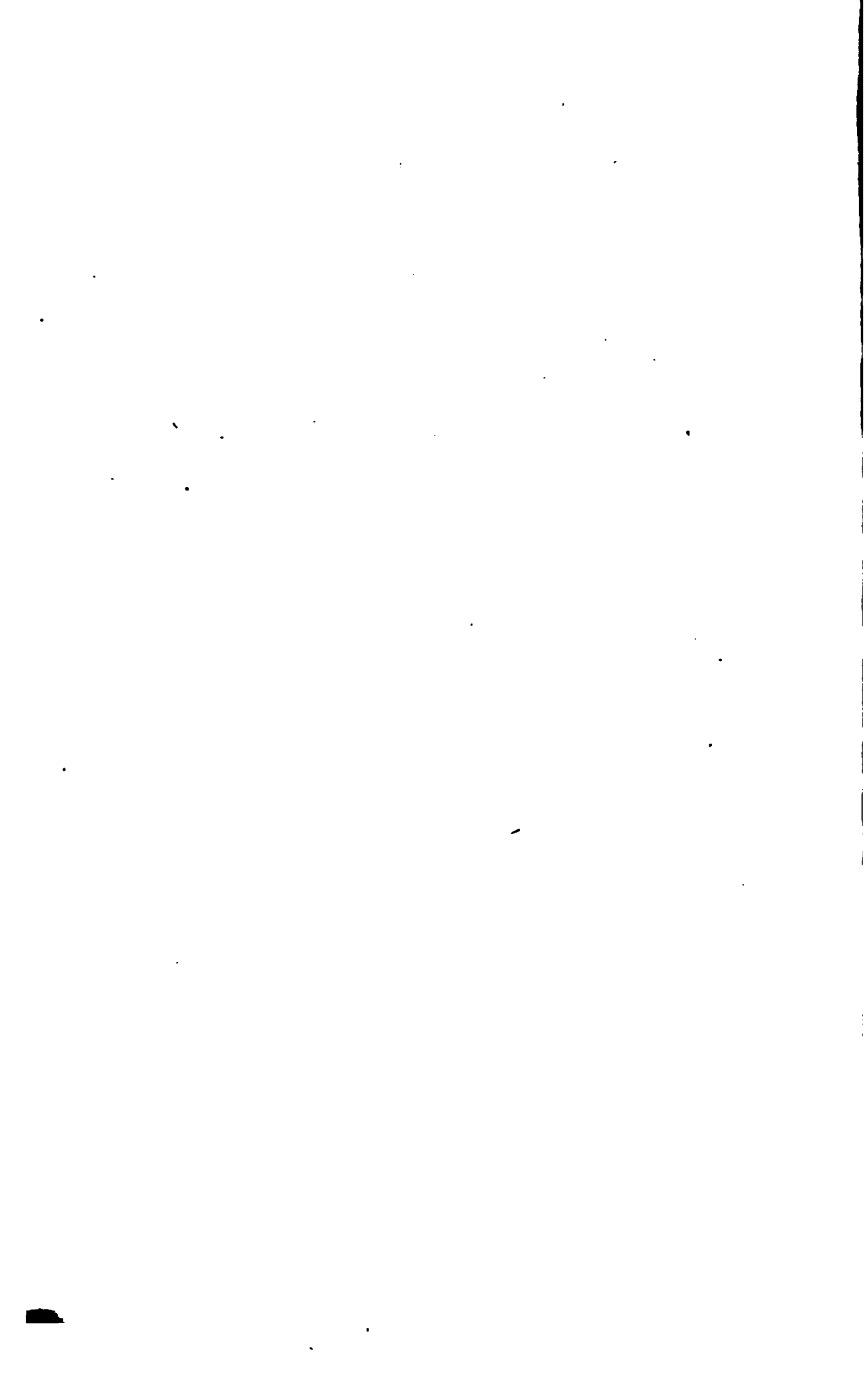
On this occasion Wittekind, who had during the war displayed proofs of consummate mi-

litary skill and valour, consulted his private interest and embraced the Christian religion. At his baptism he exchanged the black horse, which he had previously borne as his arms, for a white one, which is still used by the kings of Great Britain as dukes of Brunswick Lüneburg and descendants of Henry the *Lion*; with whose continental dominions the greatest part of the patrimonial possessions of the celebrated Saxon chief have long been incorporated.

Some writers have attempted to prove that Wittekind was the progenitor of the present reigning house of Saxony and its collateral branches: but the most candid are ready to admit that we possess no historical records which afford absolute proof of such an assumption. All, however agree, to consider Dedo, count of Wettin, as the ancestor of that house; and as Ditmar, bishop of Merseburg, informs us that Wittekind's descendants possessed the castles of Zörbig and Wettin, with others built as defences against the Vandals, from which they took the title of Counts; it seems not improbable that the present

princes of Saxony may justly derive their origin from Wittekind, who has been surnamed *the Great*.

As Meissen, Thuringia, and the duchy of Saxony, originally belonged to three different families, though in process of time they became united under one head, it will be necessary to consider each of them separately.



## MARGRAVES OF MEISSEN.



THOUGH Meissen is known to have been governed by margraves before the time of Dedo, it will be sufficient for my purpose to commence with that prince as the undoubted ancestor of the house of Saxony.

DEDO, count of Wettin, invested with the dignity of margrave of Meissen in 1048, died in 1075.

After his death, the emperor Henry IV. gave Meissen to Vratislaus II., duke, and afterwards king of Bohemia, by whom it was transferred to his son-in-law Wiprecht, count of Groitsch. On his decease in 1124, it reverted to the house of Wettin in the person of

HENRY, count of Eulenburg, nephew to Dedo. He was succeeded by his cousin

CONRAD the *Great*, who was invested in 1127

with the dignity of margrave of Meissen, by the emperor Lothair, who also conferred on him the margraviate of Lower Lusatia in 1136. In his disputes with his predecessor Henry of Eulenburg, he was taken prisoner by the latter, and upon his release after the death of his enemy, joined the crusade to Palestine, agreeably to a vow made during his confinement. Wearied at length of the world he determined to leave it, and having given his arms and knightly insignia to the church of Meissen, he assumed the religious habit in the convent of Lauterberg, having previously divided his territories among his five sons. He died two months afterwards, in 1157. This prince first granted to the city of Leipzig the privilege of holding two annual fairs at Easter and Michaelmas, which have since conferred on it such great commercial importance.

OTHO, the eldest son of Conrad, was surnamed *the Rich*, on account of the silver mine discovered about the year 1170 at Freyberg. A carrier of salt from Goslar passing by the place, picked up a lump of the ore, which he took home, and found it to contain a large proportion of silver and lead. A superintendent and a party of miners were, in consequence, sent thither to open the works. These proved so productive, that about 1174, Otho began to build the town of Freyberg, which increased with such rapidity, that at the time of Henry, duke of



Saxony, it contained 32,760 inhabitants of twelve years and upwards.

*Dieterich*, Otho's eldest brother, to whom his father gave the margraviate of Lusatia, was a prince of an heroic mind and independent character. He was one of the retinue of the emperor Frederic I., when that monarch on the 24th of July, 1177, effected a reconciliation with pope Alexander III., before the church of St. Mark at Venice. When the haughty pontiff had not only left the emperor prostrate for some time upon the ground, but as some papists assert, had even set his foot upon his neck, repeating the words of Scripture—*Super aspidem et basiliscum ambulabis*—"Thou shalt walk upon the asp and the basilisk;" margrave Dieterich called out and asked the emperor "Why he subjected the imperial dignity to such degradation?" The pope, who did not understand German, hereupon inquired what Dieterich had said. On learning the import of his question, to avoid any further tumult he went to the emperor, raised him from the ground, and embraced him in the usual manner. Many papists, says Glafey in his *History of Saxony*, are ashamed to admit the truth of this fact, because it attests the excessive arrogance of the pope in offering such an indignity to the emperor; but Baronius acknowledges that, according to the chronicle of cardinal Bessarion, preserved in the Venetian library, the circumstance actually hap-

pened, and Cellarius, in his work on the *Origin and Succession of the Counts of Wettin*, observes, that it was commemorated by the monks in a painting on the sides of the altar in the church of St. Mary at Halle. This picture represented an emperor crowned lying upon the earth, and a pope treading upon his neck. Over the head of the pope was the name of *Alexander*, which the monks, ashamed of the action, had covered with another colour, substituting the words *Sanctus Josua*; but still the old characters were so plain, that the name of *Alexander* was distinctly legible.

*Conrad*, the only legitimate son of *Dieterich*, was killed about 1175 or 1180, in a tournament at Vienna, on which account his corpse was refused christian burial by his cousin *Wichmann*, archbishop of Magdeburg, who had shortly before excommunicated all such persons as took part in that kind of sports. The prelate at length permitted his interment at the entrance of the greater church of *Lauterberg*; but only on condition that the princes his friends, would swear "from that time forward never to attend any tournaments, nor to suffer any such amusements in their dominions, nor to allow any of their people or servants to be present at the same."

*Henry*, *Otho's* third brother, married *Sophia*, daughter of *Leopold IV.* of Austria, whose brother duke *Henry*, surprised them on the wedding-day in their chamber, when they were in bed together, and

with threats compelled them to promise that they would not demand of him either bridal paraphernalia or dowry.

ALBERT the *Proud* succeeded his father Otho in 1189, and was poisoned in 1195 by one of his attendants.

DIETERICH, Albert's only brother, was in Palestine at the time of the decease of the latter. As the emperor Henry VI. coveted the Misnian territories on account of the productive mines which they contained, and had sent officers to take possession of them, Dieterich hastened home, and to escape the dangers prepared for him, was carried on board the ship in a skin or barrel. With the assistance of his father-in-law, the landgrave of Thuringia, he recovered his patrimonial dominions. Upon some misunderstanding with the people of Leipzig, who threatened to renounce their allegiance to him, and to give up their city to the emperor, they bribed his physician with 100 marks of silver to poison him, in 1222.

HENRY, surnamed the *Illustrious*, the youngest son of Dieterich, was one of the most powerful princes of his time, and in right of his mother, added the landgraviate of Thuringia to the possessions of the house of Saxony.

## LANDGRAVES OF THURINGIA.

THURINGIA is related to have been governed by kings in the early ages of the Christian era, at which period it comprehended a much more extensive tract of country than is now included in the appellation. The most celebrated of these ancient monarchs was Hermanfried, who so harassed his neighbours, the Franks, that they united with the Saxons; and these allies, having conquered their enemy in 531, divided his kingdom between them. Thuringia was afterwards governed like the other provinces of the Frankish monarchy by dukes and counts. After the time of Charlemagne it continued in subjection to his German successors, who appointed margraves, landgraves, and counts-palatine, to protect the country against the incursions of the Huns.

In 1039, the emperor Conrad II. conferred various lordships in Thuringia on his relative, LEWIS *the Bearded*, son of Charles duke of Lorraine, and grandson of Lewis IV. of France, who considerably enlarged his possessions by subsequent purchases

LEWIS, son of the preceding, surnamed, by modern historians, *the Leaper*. This appellation is attributed to the following circumstance. Lewis, being charged with the murder of Frederick III., count-palatine of Saxony, was secured by command of the emperor Henry IV., and confined in the castle of Giebichenstein, near Halle. Here he is said to have remained a prisoner two years; at the expiration of which time he regained his liberty by leaping from the castle into the river Saale. In this leap, he is reported to have been materially assisted by a loose gown, the mention of which must not be omitted; otherwise the story would appear absolutely incredible to all who are acquainted with the situation of the castle. It seems probable, that Lewis, being taken prisoner by Henry, and confined in the above-mentioned castle, found means to bribe his guards; and that the story of the adventurous leap was merely a fiction invented by them to remove any suspicion of their infidelity.

LEWIS III. was, in 1130, created Landgrave of Thuringia, with peculiar privileges, by the emperor Lothair.

LEWIS IV., surnamed *the Iron*. This prince seems in his early years to have paid but little attention to the important duties of his station. His whole time was spent in seeking and conferring pleasure. He therefore lived with his nobility upon the footing of a familiar friend, without exacting

that respect which was due to his superior rank. The nobles, unprincipled enough to abuse the weakness and condescension of the young and thoughtless prince, assumed more extensive rights than belonged to them; had recourse to unlawful means of enriching themselves; and in particular were guilty of the most intolerable oppression towards their vassals. All these circumstances, however, were unknown to the landgrave, till accident made him acquainted with them. One day, when enjoying the diversion of the chase, he was parted from his attendants and lost his way. The approach of night compelled him to seek refuge in the cottage of an honest blacksmith, to whom he represented himself as a servant of the landgrave. The smith continued his work, and at every blow that he struck upon the glowing iron, he emphatically ejaculated, *Landgrave become severe!* This circumstance excited his curiosity and led to an explanation, which first apprized him of the grievances of his subjects. His indignation was roused against his vassals; he resolved to punish the guilty, and to correct the abuses which had every where crept in. As the nobles, however, would not quietly submit to humiliation, an open war ensued between them and the landgrave, who at length proved victorious, and secured the persons of the principal insurgents. These he harnessed by fours to a plough, compelled them to plough a whole field, hence denominated

the *Adel-acker*—"the Field of the Nobles," and during the operation flogged them severely with his own hands. By this and other severities the landgrave struck terror into all, but exposed himself to so many attempts upon his life, that he found it necessary to wear armour habitually, and hence received the surname of *the Iron*.

A recent writer states, that the circumstance which more especially induced the landgrave to inflict the above-mentioned punishment on his nobles, was, that during an extraordinary dearth, many people in Thuringia had been forced to sell themselves as slaves to the great for bread, and had received from them the like inhuman treatment. It is farther related of this prince, that shortly before his death, he gave orders that his refractory nobles should carry him in his coffin, upon their shoulders, from Neuenburg, where he resided, to Reinhardsbunn, the family burial-place, a distance of 40 English miles, which was accordingly done.

In the landgrave's apartment in the Wartburg, says Mr. Thon in his history of that castle published in 1814, still hangs the portrait of this prince as large as life, with small pictures on each side. On the right is represented the scene in the smith's cottage; on the left a plough, to which are harnessed four men having nothing on but their shirts, and a man on horseback whipping them. At a distance are seen a number of other persons likewise in their

shirts and their hands bound. In the distance appear several castles in ruins. This picture, if not contemporary with the landgrave, is at least very ancient.

LEWIS V., eldest son of the preceding, was distinguished for the excellence of his character, his prudence, generosity, and personal beauty; and received the surname of *the Mild*, or *the Pious*. His first wife, a countess of Cleves, he divorced upon the pretext of too near relationship. He then married the widow of Waldemar I., king of Denmark, whom, however, he sent home the following year (1187) to her no small vexation. His third wife was an Austrian princess.

Though Lewis had a sovereign contempt for the intrigues of the priests, who according to some ancient chronicles, strove by means of a frightful phantasmagoric exhibition of the tortures of his father's soul, to obtain from him a grant of considerable estates; he nevertheless founded several religious houses, and in 1188 joined in a crusade to the Holy Land, where he highly distinguished himself in the siege of Acre, but died at Cyprus in 1190.

HERRMANN I., who succeeded his brother Lewis, was involved in a few years in war with Albert the Proud, margrave of Meissen. Deitrich, count of Weissenfels, the brother of Albert, was so closely pressed by the latter that he applied to Hermann for assistance. The only condition



upon which Herrmann would listen to this solicitation was, that Deitrich should marry his daughter Jutta. This stipulation was by no means agreeable, as the lady was extremely ugly. Urged, however, by necessity, Deitrich complied, and to this union the house of Meissen was indebted for the possession of Thuringia.

Tired of the wars which at the commencement of the 13th century distracted Germany, Herrmann directed his attention to the arts of peace, and was a zealous patron of some of the most eminent minstrels of that age. The principal of these was Henry von Veldeck, a man of noble birth and high in office at the court of the landgrave. His chief poetical performance was a translation of Virgil's *Eneid*, with which he interwove the achievements of the emperor Frederic I. The others were named Walter von der Vogelweide, Reinhard von Zwetzen, Wolfram von Eschenbach, Peter Olp, and Henry von Aferdingen. These men frequently displayed their talents in competitions before the princes whom war or amusement brought to the residence of the landgrave. On one of these occasions they chose Herrmann himself, and his brother-in-law, Leopold, duke of Austria, for their heroes. Aferdingen, who had resided some time at the court of the duke, characterized him in such glowing and enthusiastic strains, that Walter von der Vogelweide, who was his most strenuous opponent, was obliged

to acknowledge his superiority. The vanquished poet deeply chagrined, urged a fresh trial. Veldeck and Olp seconded his proposal. Zwetzen and Eschenbach were appointed umpires; and to such a pitch was the poetic fury carried on this occasion, that nothing less than death by the hand of the public executioner of Eisenach was destined for the conquered party. Walter's friends, sensible that he was not a match for Afterdingen, succeeded by a variety of artifices in prevailing upon the others to leave the decision to dice. His opponents played false, and he lost. To escape hanging, the apparatus for which was already prepared by the executioner, in front of the castle of Wartburg, where this singular competition took place, Afterdingen loudly insisted on another trial of poetic skill. His demand was complied with, but his adversaries had recourse to all possible means to disturb the current of his ideas, and with such success that he admitted himself to be overcome. He was accordingly adjudged without mercy, to suffer the fate agreed upon. In this dilemma he claimed the protection of the landgravine Sophia, intreating that Klingsor, the most-celebrated minstrel of that age, might be appointed umpire. Not only the landgravine and her consort, but the other minstrels consented that Klingsor should decide the dispute within a year. Afterdingen himself proceeded to Hungary, and before the expiration of the time appointed, brought back

his umpire with him to Eisenach. According to various accounts, Klingsor had studied at Rome, Paris, and Cracow; and had attained such proficiency in medicine and other sciences, particularly astronomy, as to excite the astonishment of his contemporaries. He had visited the East, where he profited by the society of the learned Arabs of Bagdad, of whom he was supposed to have learned the mysteries of the black art, which in those days had numerous votaries. The truth is, that Klingsor was one of the greatest scholars of his time, and such were his poetic abilities, that he found it an easy task to bear away the palm from many minstrels. The latter, satisfied that their failure could not be the result of natural means, without farther ceremony ascribed his superiority to the assistance of the devil. On the arrival of this celebrated man, a solemn meeting was summoned at the Wartburg, in which this important dispute was to be decided. Klingsor and Wolfram von Eschenbach tried their skill, and proposed riddles to one another. The victory was in general doubtful; upon which Klingsor is related to have been thrown into such embarrassment, that he called a demon to his aid. In the Jena collection of the works of the minstrels, there are actually several poetical fragments, in which the supposed spirit, Nasian, is represented as telling the severest truths, especially to the

clergy on the infamous system of indulgences, the greediness of the priests, and other similar subjects. In those days such sallies were certainly dangerous, and Klingsor seems to have had the good sense to put them on purpose into the mouth of an evil spirit to avoid any unpleasant consequences to himself. He ultimately succeeded in effecting a reconciliation between the hostile bards. The landgrave was desirous of retaining him at his court, but could not prevail upon him to stay, as he received from Andrew II., king of Hungary, a yearly salary of 3000 marks of silver, chiefly on account of his extraordinary skill in matters relating to the mines. Herrmann, therefore, dismissed him with some very valuable presents.

It is not improbable, that Klingsor's visit to the court of the landgrave may have been the immediate occasion of the embassy sent soon afterwards by the latter to the king of Hungary, to solicit his daughter as a wife for his son Lewis, then eleven years of age. The ambassadors were most graciously received, and the king delivered the princess Elisabeth, who was but four years old, into their hands with many formalities and earnest exhortations. The little bride was furnished, among other things, with a silver cradle and bathing-vessel, and 1000 marks of silver formed part of her dowry. The ambassadors took their leave, and arrived in safety at Herrmann's court

at Warburg, where, to render their union secure, the young couple were betrothed with the ceremonies prescribed by the church.

LEWIS VI., or *the Holy*, had scarcely attained his 16th year, at the death of his father in 1216. He had received an excellent education in the society of his beloved Elisabeth. This princess, even in her infancy, manifested a strong propensity to works of piety, which often degenerated into mental imbecility and fanaticism. Many persons about the court of the landgrave conceived such a dislike of her for this conduct, as to exert all their efforts to have her sent home again, or placed in a convent. Lewis, however, was too warmly attached to his bride to listen to such counsel. When he went from home, he never returned without bringing her some present, and giving her other proofs of his tenderness. Once when he had omitted to do so, Elisabeth, whose heart was endued with extraordinary sensibility, was deeply affected. Some of the courtiers, observing her disappointment, took a malicious pleasure in throwing out the insinuation that the young landgrave had ceased to love her. This increased her distress to the highest degree, and she disclosed her grief to Walter von Vargel, one of her attendants. This honest servant comforted her in the best manner he could, and soon afterwards found an opportunity to communicate her unhappiness to his

master. "Look you," replied the good prince, pointing to the Inselsberg, "that hill, if it were entirely of pure gold, could not induce me to be inconstant to my beloved Elisabeth. Tell her so, and as a proof carry to her this jewel." With these words, he took out of a velvet bag which he wore by his side a double mirror set in ivory, on the back of which was a crucifix. With this significant present Walter hastened to Elisabeth, and banished all uneasiness from her bosom.

In 1121, Lewis consummated his nuptials with this princess, who was then but fourteen years of age. The pleasures of matrimony, however, seem to have had but few charms for the gentle enthusiast. She would rise from bed\* every night, even after her marriage, to repeat her prayers, which often lasted so long that sleep overpowered her before she had finished. Her husband would then take her by the hand, and intreat her to lie down again. But neither solicitations nor tender reproaches were of any avail; and she declared to him that though

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\* The wooden bedstead upon which Elisabeth slept was afterwards cut up to make toothpicks, which were believed to possess the miraculous virtue of curing the most violent toothache. Many a bedstead has in consequence of this notion, been since carried piece-meal from the Wartburg, where good care was always taken to supply their places.

she could not be always praying, yet she could mortify her flesh, which she effected by scourging it most unmercifully.

Their mutual attachment nevertheless continued unalterable, and, according to various anecdotes related by ancient chronicles, nothing could induce the landgrave to be untrue to his Elisabeth.

When Lewis was called from home either by military operations or other affairs of state, his consort was indefatigable in the exercise of benevolence; for which the great famine and the contagious diseases that then ravaged Thuringia afforded abundant opportunities. At the foot of the Wartburg she erected a hospital in which she maintained 28 indigent sick persons, whom she herself assisted to nurse and attend. She founded also, besides other charitable institutions, the hospital of St. Anne, situated just without the gate of Eisenach, as an asylum for aged persons bereft of fortune and friends, and endowed it with considerable revenues. During the dearth above alluded to, she moreover caused relief to be daily distributed in her presence to 900 indigent individuals. This active beneficence several officious persons took pains to represent to the landgrave as wanton profusion. Lewis, whose sentiments were worthy of his rank, replied, that he would never obstruct Elisabeth in the indulgence of her charitable disposition; and he should be

perfectly satisfied, if she gave away every thing but the Wartburg, Eisenach, and Neuenburg."

Among other extraordinary stories, which are in direct opposition to this reply and to the general sentiments of the landgrave, we find the following : —the landgravine was once descending from the Wartburg with a basket full of provisions, for her indigent pensioners. Her husband met her by the way, and peremptorily inquired what she had in the basket. "Flowers," answered the terrified Elisabeth, and when the basket was uncovered, the most beautiful metamorphosis confirmed the reply. — This transformation, however, is one of the minor miracles ascribed by various historical writers to this princess. According to these fabulous accounts, she one day during her residence at Wartburg, gave to some poor persons various articles of her apparel, which were immediately replaced by angels. On another occasion as she was going to church, she dispatched a beggar with a valuable glove, which was quickly purchased by a knight, who, in every conflict in which he was engaged, fastened this precious relic to his helmet, and was thus rendered invincible. When she was distributing provisions, and the number of the poor was greater than she had expected, the victuals increased in her hands till they were all satisfied. She several times procured fish out of Elisabeth's well, which



was constructed at her expense; and once in particular when a sick man desired to have a dish of fish, and it was impossible to procure any in haste, she ordered a maid-servant to dip a bucket into this well. The girl brought up several fish, of which the patient ate heartily and recovered. She restored to health a paralytic person who was deaf and dumb. She prayed with a blind man, who forthwith recovered his sight. She frequently went abroad in the rain to perform her orisons, but her clothes were never wetted. Angels appeared to her, and she even conversed with our Saviour, and with God the Father himself, who, when the emperor paid a visit to the Wartburg, sent her by an angel a golden crown and a most magnificent dress for the occasion.

All these miracles may be easily accounted for; if we take but a superficial view of those times; if we consider the character of Conrad of Marburg, the confessor of the tender Elisabeth, who is represented by various writers as a consummate hypocrite, an atrocious villain, and an inhuman bigot; and if we reflect how easy it must have been to deceive this gentle enthusiastic princess. Innocent and wholly absorbed in devotion, she was herself most deluded, and found in circumstances of this kind miracles upon which she certainly valued herself not a little.

The reader will not be surprised to learn that

some portion of this wonder-working power was communicated to her husband, the landgrave. He is said to have displayed a remarkable instance of it at the Wartburg, when a lion, presented to him either by his father-in-law the king of Hungary, or his brother-in-law Henry of Austria, rushed furiously upon him as he was entering the court-yard. A loud exclamation and a motion of the hand were sufficient to oblige the formidable animal to throw himself at his feet, and as it were to implore his pardon.

But setting aside these fabulous stories, history has recorded many curious facts respecting the landgrave and his consort. During the absence of this prince in Italy, the lord of Salza conceived the idea of erecting a castle on the Altenberg, situated in the domain of the convent of Reinhardsbrunn, which enabled him to do great injury to that house. The abbot intreated him, but in vain, to desist from his design. Lewis on his return from Italy visited Reinhardsbrunn, where the abbot complained bitterly of the conduct of Salza. The landgrave said nothing; but privately sent orders to his bailiff, of Eisenach, to post himself the following morning near Salza's castle, with all the citizens capable of bearing arms. He himself passed the night at Reinhardsbrunn. Next day, which was Sunday, he departed, directing the abbot not to hold the procession or read high mass before his return. He

joined the men of Eisenach, who were assembled according to his orders, scaled the castle, and took Salza prisoner. He then proceeded with his train to the convent, the captive, bound and fettered, heading the procession, and being placed in an elevated situation in the church for public view. Some of his servants were executed, and Salza himself engaged by an oath, never more to set foot upon the lands belonging to the convent. The castle was demolished, and the materials given to the monks. On this occasion the landgrave, contrary to his usual custom, brought no provisions with him. His table was therefore supplied by the abbot. The prince ordered his treasurer to demand a bill and pay the amount. The monks, grateful for the service rendered to them, positively refused to accept any remuneration, and the treasurer urged the matter no farther. The landgrave, highly incensed at this complaisance, obliged the treasurer to pay out of his own pocket the whole expense of his entertainment.

Soon afterwards the monks of the same convent complained to the landgrave of some Franconian noblemen, who had taken from them a butt of wine and six horses. Lewis demanded the restitution of the property, which was refused. The landgrave in consequence, summoned together his vassals and citizens, and ravaged the possessions of the plunderers. They were at length necessitated to im-

pleore pardon, and that in the most humiliating attitude: covered with their shirts alone, with halters about their necks, and naked swords held to their throats, they begged for mercy. Lewis forgave them, on condition that they should send a quantity of good wine and a certain number of fine horses to the convent.

The landgrave once attended the fair of Eisenach, where a dealer in small wares attracted his notice. "Canst thou gain a subsistence by the sale of such trifling commodities?" asked the landgrave. "Ah, Sir!" replied the pedlar, "I am ashamed to beg, and am not strong enough for a day-labourer. I could, however, earn a livelihood by the profession which I follow, though my whole stock is not worth more than five pence, if I had but a safe-conduct from one town to another." Lewis ordered the sum which he had mentioned to be paid him: he directed a letter of safe-conduct to be made out for him, and promised to be responsible for all losses, but on condition of sharing the profits of his trade. The pedlar joyfully pursued his peregrinations to distant parts, and returned every new-year's day to exhibit his stock to the landgrave. The latter selected from it such articles as he pleased, and clothed the dealer in the dress worn by the attendants of his court. The pedlar's business soon increased so much, that he found it necessary to purchase an ass. At length he ventured to take a journey to

Venice, then the emporium of the commerce of Europe. From that city he returned with many foreign curiosities, which he exhibited by the way at the fair of Würzburg. The sight of these attractive trinkets excited in some of the Franconians a violent desire to possess them, as they would be such charming presents for their wives and mistresses. As however, they had not money sufficient to buy them, they adopted an expedient common enough in those days, and when the pedlar was about to continue his journey, they seized his goods and his ass into the bargain. The poor man hastened to Wartburg, and complained to the landgrave of his mishap; Lewis laughed, desired him to be of good cheer, convoked his counts, lords, knights, and vassals, for an expedition, and accompanied by the pedlar, proceeded to Würzburg in quest of the ass, laying waste all before him. The bishop of Würzburg at length dispatched a messenger to inquire the reason of such conduct. "I am seeking my ass," replied the landgrave, "which some of his people have taken away." The goods and the ass were immediately restored.

All these facts serve to attest the excellent character of Lewis VI. It is certain that he had the strongest sense of religion and virtue. He punished profane swearing at his court as immoral. With all his personal recommendations, he never suffered himself to be hurried away by those pleasures which

captivate the senses. With the most steadfast adherence to principles he was a just and wise sovereign, a tender husband, and a faithful friend. It is the more to be regretted that his life should have been abridged by his participation in the crusades. He died at Otranto, in the kingdom of Naples, on his way to Palestine, in 1227.

Elisabeth was deeply affected by the news of this event, though she was far from anticipating the cruel fate that awaited her. Henry, her husband's brother, turned her and her innocent children out of the Wartburg, and even caused it to be intimated to the inhabitants of Eisenach, that her reception there would be displeasing to him. With her infants in her arms, or clinging about her, did this daughter of a king, and widow of one of the most powerful princes of Germany, quit the castle. At Eisenach she was cruelly treated by the lower classes of the inhabitants, who had received so many benefits at her hands, and one ungrateful wretch of her own sex even pushed her maliciously into the stream called the Löbersbach. She resolved at length to seek a retreat in the hospital which herself had founded. Hence she was taken by her aunt, the abbess of Kitzingen, and her uncle the bishop of Bamberg gave her the castle of Bottenstein for her residence. She had not been there long before the remains of her husband were brought to Bamberg, and she accompanied them, with an extraordinary

concourse of people, from that town to Reinhardsburn. Here Rudolph von Vargel had the courage to remonstrate in the strongest manner with the landgrave Henry on the cruelty of his behaviour to his sister-in-law. Henry was so deeply affected by the representations of this faithful servant, that he became reconciled to Elisabeth, and took her back with him to the Wartburg, where she enjoyed all the conveniences that she could desire. Such, however, was her wish to pass the remainder of her days in religious seclusion, that, at the expiration of a year, she entreated him to assign her a place where she might live in retirement. He accordingly gave to her the town of Marburg, with the dependent villages, revenues, and rights; and thither she immediately repaired. Her father, having meanwhile heard of her distressed situation, sent an embassy to fetch her home. The ambassador followed her to Marburg, where he found the daughter of his sovereign at the spinning-wheel, but could not prevail upon her to return with him. In that town she ended her life in 1231, and in 1235 was solemnly canonized by pope Gregory IX. Anterior to the Reformation her tomb was visited by great numbers of pilgrims from Hungary and other countries.

HERRMANN II. succeeded his father Lewis VI. at the age of four years, under the guardianship of

his uncle Henry Raspe, who is charged with having caused him to be poisoned in 1240, at the early age of 17.

HENRY RASPE died without issue in 1247, on which Thuringia devolved to his sister's son Henry the Illustrious, margrave of Meissen.



## THURINGIA AND MEISSEN UNITED.



HENRY *the Illustrious* added Thuringia to the possessions of the house of Meissen. In 1263 he divided his dominions with his three sons, and died in 1288.

ALBERT, who for his vices received the surname of the *Degenerate*, the eldest son of Henry the Illustrious, obtained on the partition of his father's territories the province of Thuringia. In his early years he was a prince of great hopes, and particularly distinguished himself in the campaign against the Pagans, in Prussia, in 1265. He married Margaret, daughter of the emperor Frederic II., by whom he had three sons and a daughter. She was a princess of excellent character, but had the misfortune to lose the affections of her husband, who was fascinated by the attractions of one of her ladies, named Cunigund von Eisenberg. This woman, who possessed in a high degree the art of pleasing, not content with having deprived her mistress of her husband's love, formed the cruel resolution of putting her completely out of the way, that she might step into her place. Albert was

base enough to countenance her design. After some attempts to poison her had failed, they chose (in 1270) an expedient worthy of their age. They prevailed, by the promise of a great reward, upon a man of the lowest class, an ass-driver, who daily brought water, wood, and other necessities to the castle of Wartburg, to introduce himself disguised as a ghost, into the bed-chamber of the landgravine, and to strangle her whilst asleep, upon which her death might be ascribed to the supernatural agency of an evil spirit. The man came at the time appointed, and entered the chamber of the princess. Here he was seized with a sudden terror, for he was not a hardened villain. His soul revolted at the crime which he had engaged to commit, and in his confusion, he made a noise that awoke the princess, whose pardon he implored upon his knees. The landgravine in extreme astonishment inquired the cause of his appearance in such a place, and he confessed all that he knew. In the utmost consternation she sent for Vargel, the steward of her household, and consulted with him what was to be done. He advised her to seek safety in immediate flight. Whilst her attendants were collecting a few necessities, the unfortunate landgravine went to her beloved children who were in an adjoining chamber, and took leave of them with a flood of tears. Such was the violence of her emotion, that in taking a parting embrace of her favourite, Frederic, who

was twelve years old, she bit his right cheek so severely, that he afterwards retained the mark of this token of maternal affection, and received in history the surname of *The Bitten*. As there was no time to be lost, her attendants tore the weeping mother from her children, and let her down from a window of the castle to a walk on the outside of the walls. In this manner did Margaret, the daughter of an emperor, escape the danger of death, in order to expose herself to fresh hardships. With three faithful followers, she descended the steep mountain after midnight, with considerable difficulty, and proceeded on foot to the castle of Craynberg, where she was received with astonishment by the steward of the abbot of Hirschfeld. Hence she was conducted to Fulda, and from that place to Frankfort, by direction of the abbot, for which he was a few months afterwards assassinated before the altar, at the instigation, as it is said, of the landgrave, Albert. Margaret was every where treated with all the respect due to her birth and rank ; but her unmerited misfortunes preyed so deeply upon her spirits, as in two months to terminate both her sorrows and her life. Her unprincipled husband, to conceal his own base behaviour, and to account for her flight, propagated the scandalous report that she had been detected in an intrigue with one of his nobles, with whom she had secretly eloped. No sooner was he apprised of her death, than he mar-

ried Cunigund, who, during the nuptial ceremony, held under her robe her son Apitz, whom she had by the landgrave, a practice common at that time in Germany, where it was supposed to procure for natural children the privileges of legitimacy. This union was attended with baneful consequences to Thuringia and Meissen. Albert being more and more estranged from his children by his first wife, disinherited them, and declared Apitz heir to his dominions. This injustice was resisted by some of his nobles, as well as by the princes themselves, whom their uncle Dieterich received under his protection, and led to a long succession of civil broils and hostilities. At length, in 1286, a convention was concluded, by which the landgrave agreed to give up the palatinate of Saxony to Frederic, the elder of his surviving sons, and the country of Pleissen to Dieterich, the younger.

Albert had previously lost his beloved Cunigund, who was the cause of the discord between him and his sons, and not long afterwards he married a lady of the house of Reuss, who had by her first husband, Otho von Arnshaug, a beautiful daughter named Elisabeth. In 1293, Albert sold Thuringia to count Adolphus of Nassau, who had been elected king of the Romans, for 12,000 marks of silver, reserving to himself nothing but the castle of Wartburg, and the annexed demesne for life. His sons opposed this sale of their inheritance, and resolutely

withstood Adolphus, who came with an army to take possession of the country. These strangers; consisting of soldiers collected in Swabia, and in the provinces bordering on the Rhine, were guilty of every species of cruelty and atrocity. In retaliation for their disgraceful treatment of the female sex, the two brothers caused such of the enemy as fell into their hands in the battle of Mittelhausen to be emasculated, and then sent back to the camp of Adolphus. Spangenberg, in his *Mannsfeld Chronicle*, has preserved a sarcastic song sung by the Thuringians on this occasion. In 1298, death terminated at once the life and claims of Adolphus, and left the brothers in peaceable possession of the country.

About this time margrave Frederic, who had so valiantly and successfully opposed the invaders of Thuringia, was himself overcome by the power of love. His heart conceived a violent passion for the beautiful Elisabeth, his step-mother's daughter, whom he had seen at the castle of Arnshaug, and whom he determined to carry off. For this purpose he concealed himself on the day of some religious festival in a small wood, and surprised her as she was going from the castle to the church. He conveyed her with her maids to Gotha, whence he wrote an account of the whole transaction to her mother, imploring her in the most pathetic manner.

to consent to their union, which was shortly after solemnized.

Albert at length suffered the punishment due to a cruel husband and unnatural father. Death had deprived him of his illegitimate favourite, Apitz, when in 1306, margrave Frederic dispossessed him of his castle of Wartburg, on which he retired to Erfurt, and there lingered out the remainder of his days in unpitied poverty, till he expired in 1314, in the 64th year of his age.

The Wartburg had not been long in the hands of Frederic, before he was besieged there by the troops of Albert, king of the Romans, who, as successor to Adolphus in that dignity, preferred a claim to the rights which he had purchased over Thuringia. During the siege, Frederic's consort gave birth to a daughter. As there was no priest in the castle, the rite of baptism could not be there administered. In this dilemma, heightened by the want of provisions, Frederic resolved upon an attempt which would sufficiently bespeak the intrepidity of his mind, were there no other instance of his courage upon record. Placing the nurse with the infant on a horse, he, with ten chosen followers, well mounted, sallied at night from the Wartburg. The enemy perceived and lost no time in pursuing them. By the way, the violent crying of the child signified its want of that sustenance which nature

has provided for tender infancy. "Stop!" cried the affectionate father to the nurse and her escort, "the girl must have refreshment, should all Thuringia be the price of it." During this repast, which is certainly unparalleled in history, the enemy approached. The presence of the brave parent however, deterred them from making any formidable attack, and he hastened with his charge to Tenneberg, to the abbot of Reinhardsbrunn, by whom the infant was baptized, and named Elisabeth. Having left her at Tenneberg, and obtained assistance from his brother Dieterich, and his brother-in-law the duke of Brunswick, he hastened home, and put an end to the siege.

In the following year, 1307, the king of the Romans again entered the country with a numerous army, chiefly composed of Swabians, and encamped at Lucka, apparently intending to besiege Leipzig. Frederic and his brother, who were then in that city, collecting their knights and dependents, together with the citizens capable of bearing arms, and reinforced by 300 Brunswick horse, determined to march out to meet the foe. Before they set out on this bold expedition, all the individuals of their little army engaged to stand by one another to the last drop of their blood. A day of solemn prayer was then held; each person confessed, received the holy sacrament, made vows to the saints, and promised part of the spoils that should be taken to

the churches. All the churches and chapels were thronged with women and children, who recommended their husbands, brothers, and fathers, to the protection of the Almighty and the saints, and fervently prayed God to grant a victory and a safe return to their princes and to the brave citizens and soldiers. After this, Frederic ordered all his people to assemble under arms in the market-place, and addressed them in the following spirited harangue:—

“ Dearly beloved, and loyal citizens and valiant soldiers, it is manifest to every one how things now stand with us. We are put up, as it were to public sale, by him from whom such a proceeding was least to be expected, and bought by those who ought to know their duty better, and who should consider that parents and children who quarrel under certain circumstances, may under others be reconciled again. But the first unjust purchaser (Adolphus) has not gone unpunished; he has been slain in battle by him (Albert), who, though he at first shewed a disposition to leave us at peace, yet soon afterwards, contrary to our hopes, began to tread in the steps of his vanquished predecessor. He has now sent his banditti and armed plunderers into our country, to carry us off like the most abject slaves into ignominious bondage. Whether he be more proud and haughty, than cruel and inhuman, it is difficult to determine. When he had reduced the Eastland to submission, he did not on that account desist from hostilities, but ravaged it with fire, rapine, murder, rape, and other horrible atrocities: he spared nothing either temporal or ecclesiastical, for which he will assuredly not escape the just wrath of the Almighty judge and avenger of guilt and crimes. In the name of this supreme and celestial avenger I promise you certain victory, if ye but shew that courage which was displayed fifty years ago by your forefathers, who, though in small number, totally destroyed a great hostile



force, which was committing similar devastations in these provinces. Bear in mind their memorable example, and let it incite you to emulate their valour. Remember the virtue of your fathers and grandfathers ! Remember that ye are to fight for house and home, for the temples of God and the saints, for the country in which ye were born and bred ; for your wives and children ; nay, for life and liberty. I will not detain and fatigue you with farther observations, lest I should seem to doubt the virtue and valour of my loyal citizens and soldiers, and lest it should be suspected that I advance more in this place than I shall prove in the field of battle. Myself and my brother here (pointing to margrave Dieterich) will march at your head. We will be the first to attack the enemy. ' Wherever the battle rages most furiously, there will we be found in the midst of it. Follow only, with the assistance of God, the directions and example of us, your leaders, and be assured that we will share your fortunes, whatever the issue of this conflict shall make them.' "

To this address, a suitable answer was returned, and the next day, which was the 31st of May, the margrave, having mustered his little force, and once more commended his just cause to God, rode out of the town by St. Peter's gate. The inhabitants with uplifted hands petitioned Heaven to grant him success. His followers took a mournful leave of their friends and families, and the priests imparted their benediction to them, as to men who were hastening to inevitable destruction. Those who were left behind, having secured the gates, returned to the churches and resumed their prayers. Universal silence pervaded the city, and every one awaited the issue of the conflict with the most anxious impatience. Margrave Frederic arranged

his people in such a manner, that the Thuringian and Eastland infantry formed the van, the Misnian the rear, the Misnian and Eastland cavalry the right and left wing, and the Brunswick horse the reserve. The Swabians received timely notice of their approach, but tauntingly denominated them a raw rabble, and were therefore in no haste to form in order of battle. The two gallant brothers, however, charged them with such fury, that they were thrown into confusion, and, after five hours fighting, obliged to quit the field. The troops of the margraves refused at first to give quarter, and cut down all before them without mercy. Hence 3600 Swabians were slain in this engagement, and the survivors were seized with such a panic, that many of them killed their horses, and having ripped them open, crept into their bellies to escape the fury of their pursuers. Others in their flight sought safety in ovens, in one of which retreats five of them were dispatched by an old woman, with a spit or a hayfork. So complete was the rout, that it gave rise to the proverbial expression applied to persons who are involving themselves in ruin: *They will fare like the Swabians at Lucka.* Frederic immediately sent intelligence of this victory to the good people of Leipzig. They went out with joy to meet their deliverers, who made rich presents to the churches, and returned sincere thanks to God the giver of victory.

Frederic had not long afterwards the affliction to lose his gallant brother, margrave Dieterich, who, while kneeling at prayer in the choir of St. Thomas's church at Leipzig, on Christmas Eve, was stabbed by an assassin. This wretch, though tortured in the most dreadful manner, scourged with rods, and lacerated with red-hot pincers, though his arms and legs were broken, and he was laid alive upon the wheel, yet refused to discover the instigator of the deed. The count of Nassau, king Albert's general, was however considered as his employer, for which reason the margrave Frederic singled him out in the battle which took place at Frohburg, and slew him with his own hand. Dieterich, who died without issue, was interred with due pomp in the Pauline church at Leipzig, and his epitaph in Latin hexameters was written by the celebrated Italian poet Dante, who being obliged on some account or other to flee from his own country, resided at that time in Saxony. His possessions devolved to his brother.

Frederic survived many years, successfully engaged in improving the condition of his subjects and repairing the ravages of war. The disease which proved fatal to him is attributed to a singular cause. A play, the subject of which was borrowed from the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, was once performed at Eisenach, in the presence of the court. In spite of the intercession of the Virgin Mary with the saints in behalf of the latter, they were cast by

the monks without mercy into hell, which was visibly represented. The benevolent mind of the margrave, who had then attained the age of 64 years, weakened by incessant fatigue and extraordinary exertions, was deeply affected, and he was unable to reconcile the melancholy fate of the foolish virgins, with the intercession of the mother of our Saviour, which was in those days deemed all-efficacious. These reflections plunged him into such a depression of spirits as produced bodily disease and rendered him incapable of attending to the affairs of government till his death in 1324.

FREDERIC II. *the Severe*, who was only 15 years old at the death of his father, had been betrothed by the latter to the daughter of John, king of Bohemia, who was taken prisoner by Edward III. at the battle of Cressy. By the persuasion of the emperor Lewis VI., Frederic sent home this lady, and in 1329 married Mechtild, the daughter of the emperor; on which the Bohemian monarch gave his daughter in marriage to John, king of France. In the memorable expedition of Edward III. against the latter, he was assisted by Frederic, who joined him with a considerable force. He died in 1349.

FREDERIC III. by his marriage with Catherine, daughter of count Henry of Henneberg, added the district and town of Coburg to the family possessions. It was this lady of whom the elector, Frederic III., said to Lucas Cranach, a celebrated artist of the 16th century, employed by him to execute the por-

traits of his ancestors, that "he must paint this hen in his best style, because she had laid a valuable egg for the house of Saxony." He died in 1381.

FREDERIC VI. *the Warlike* reigned jointly with his brothers, and with them purchased the town and castle of Saalfeld of the counts of Schwarzburg. In 1322 the Ascanian line of the electors of Saxony became extinct with Albert III., on which the duchy of Upper Saxony and the dignity of elector and arch-marshal of the Roman empire attached to it devolved to Frederic.

## DUKES AND ELECTORS OF SAXONY.



ON the division of the empire of Charlemagne among his sons, Saxony, together with the rest of Germany, fell to the share of Lewis the German. In the time of this prince we find the first mention of a duke of Saxony in the person of

LUDOLPH.

OTHO, son and successor of Ludolph.

HENRY *the Fowler*, became emperor of Germany on the death of Conrad I.

OTHO *the Great*, succeeded his father Henry, both in the imperial dignity and in his hereditary dominions. On occasion of the first expedition of this prince to Italy, he appointed HERRMANN BILLINGEN, who was descended from a distinguished Saxon family, governor of Saxony. He afterwards granted to him a portion of the country, most probably the modern Lüneburg, together with a district on the other side of the Elbe, and the title of *duke of Saxony*.

BRUNO, succeeded his father Herrmann, 973.

BERNARD, 1011.

ORDULPH, 1062.

**MAGNUS, 1074.** At his death, in 1106, he left two daughters, the one married to Henry the Black, duke of Bavaria, and the other to Otho the Rich, count of Ascania.

After the death of Magnus, in 1106, the emperor, Henry V., gave the duchy of Saxony to **LOTHAIR**, count of Supplinburg and Querfurth. On the elevation of Lothair to the imperial dignity in 1137, he conferred the duchy of Saxony on his son-in-law, Henry the Magnanimous, son of Henry the Black, duke of Bavaria.

**HENRY the Magnanimous, d. 1139.**

**HENRY the Lion.** This prince, the progenitor of the illustrious house of Brunswick, was left a minor under the guardianship of his uncle, duke Welf. The possessions which he inherited from his father were very extensive, embracing not only the duchy of Saxony proper, but also Bavaria, and a considerable portion of the circles of Austria, Lower Saxony, and Westphalia. Thus Henry was one of the most powerful princes of Germany; but an impolitic misunderstanding with the emperor, Frederic I., occasioned the loss of nearly the whole of his dominions. He accompanied that monarch in his fifth expedition to Italy, but quitted him with his troops at the very moment when the emperor had most need of his services, and returned to Germany. Through this defection the object of the expedition was completely frustrated, and Frederic found it

advisable to compromise his differences with his mortal enemy, pope Alexander III. He determined, however, to wreak signal vengeance upon the author of this disappointment, and urged by the bishops who were all enemies to the brave Henry, he put the latter to the ban of the empire. Unable to withstand the power and influence of Frederic, the Saxon prince was, in 1180, stripped of all his dominions excepting his allodial possessions, out of which in the sequel arose the duchy of Brunswick. The duchy of Saxony and the dignity of arch-marshal of the empire were conferred on Bernard count of Ascania.

BERNARD, d. 1212.

ALBERT I., d. 1260.

ALBERT II. This prince, who assisted at the election of the emperor Rudolph of Habsburg to the imperial dignity, married his daughter Agnes, and was invested by him with the palatinate of Saxony. He perished in 1298, at Aix, in the crowd drawn together by the coronation of Albert I., as king of the Romans.

RUDOLPH I., d. 1356.

RUDOLPH II. d. 1376.

WENCESLAUS, d. 1388.

RUDOLPH III. It is remarked of this prince that he was the first who assumed the title of *elector of Saxony*, though the right had been long exercised by his predecessors. He died in 1419.



**ALBERT III.**, brother of the preceding. By his death, in 1422, the Ascanian line of the electors of Saxony became extinct; on which the emperor Sigismund conferred the duchy of Upper Saxony, together with the electoral dignity and the office of arch-marshal, the burgraviate of Magdeburg, and other possessions, upon Frederic the Warlike, margrave of Meissen.

## ELECTORS OF SAXONY,

AFTER THE UNION OF THE

DUCHY OF SAXONY WITH MEISSEN AND THURINGIA.



**FREDERIC the Warlike.** Among other grants of the emperor Sigismund to this prince was the important privilege of *sealing with red wax*. He died in 1428.

**FREDERIC II. the Gentle.** On the death of Frederic the Simple, landgrave of Thuringia, without issue, in 1440, his possessions devolved to this prince and his brother William. For several years they governed these as well as their patrimonial dominions conjointly, but agreed to divide them in 1445. This partition led to long and ruinous quarrels between the brothers, in which Frederic displayed many traits of generosity and benevolence that acquired him the surname by which he was distinguished. On one occasion when their troops were ready to engage, a soldier who was an excellent marksman, promised to shoot duke William. "Shoot whom you will," rejoined the elector, "but don't harm my brother." William, when informed

of this proof of fraternal affection, could not help bursting into tears.—At another time, the elector having made himself master of Freyberg, commanded the senate to assemble in the market-place, for the purpose of swearing allegiance to him, and then to take the field with his army against his brother. On the repetition of this summons, the senators, bare-headed, and each carrying a winding-sheet upon his arm, went in procession two and two from the town-house to the market-place. The burgomaster, Nicholas Weller von Molssdorff, a venerable old man, addressed the elector in the name of them all, assuring the prince that they would cheerfully expose their lives in his behalf, but were determined rather to die than to violate the oath they had sworn to their sovereign, duke William; adding that he was ready to offer himself as the first victim, and to submit his old grey head to the sword of the executioner. The elector, moved by such fidelity, rode up to Weller and clapped him on the shoulder, exclaiming, “No head off, old man! no head off!”

William, on the contrary, who generally resided at Weimar, is described as a prince of a very irascible temper and vindictive disposition. Hence the popular saying, that “when duke William put on his spurs and crossed the court-yard of Weimar in them, he might be heard over all Thuringia; and that he who gave him cause to put them on, had

need to look very sharply about him." He married a daughter of the emperor Albert, but soon repudiated her on account of a fair mistress, named Brandenstein, whom he made his wife. To expiate this offence, he performed a pilgrimage to Palestine; and dying without male issue in 1483, his brother's sons, Ernest and Albert, inherited his states.

ERNEST and ALBERT, whose father died in 1464, are remarkable for an adventure which befel them in 1454, at the respective ages of fourteen and twelve years, and of which a narrative was given by their father, in a letter or manifesto addressed to the different princes of the empire. Kunz von Kauffungen who had been grand-marshal to the elector, to revenge himself for some alleged wrongs, formed a plan for carrying off the prince's two sons from the castle of Altenburg, where they resided. This scheme he executed in the night of the 8th of July, with the assistance of nine accomplices. By means of ladders he ascended to the chamber where the young princes slept, and bore them away in triumph. Kauffungen himself took the road to Bohemia with Albert, while some of his colleagues proceeded by a different way, with Ernest, for the same country. The servants of the elector pursued the robbers, and were so fortunate as to secure Kunz himself, and to recover his prize. The other party finding themselves so closely followed, sought refuge for some days in a stone quarry with Ernest, till hearing

of the apprehension of Kauffungen, they, on the promise of pardon, restored their charge. Kauffungen was beheaded, and his accomplices, after suffering severe tortures, were quartered.

These princes after governing their country conjointly, according to their father's will, upwards of twenty years, at length agreed to a partition of their dominions, by which Ernest obtained the greatest part of Thuringia with the electoral dignity, and Albert became master of Meissen together with a considerable sum of money. In this partition originated the distinctions of the *Ernestine* and *Albertine* line which still subsist in the house of Saxony. Ernest died in 1486.

*Albert*, surnamed *the Courageous*, brother to Ernest, was one of the most celebrated warriors of his time. It was reported to his enemy, Matthias, king of Bohemia, that Albert had spoken of him in very disrespectful terms, which was highly resented by that irascible prince. No sooner was Albert informed of the circumstance than he posted away to the king's quarters, and protested his innocence with this declaration, "that he was not accustomed to fight like women with his tongue, but like a brave soldier with his sword." Matthias was so pleased with his spirit that he received him very graciously and ordered him to be escorted back with the utmost respect. It was this same Matthias, who, on account of the valour displayed by Albert, declared

that "no other person was fit to command against him, and that but for this prince he would soon pitch his camp in the midst of Germany."

Albert left two sons, *George* and *Henry*. The former attained early to the government of the paternal dominions, in consequence of the absence of his father, who was appointed viceroy of the Netherlands by the emperor Charles IV. George was a determined enemy of the Reformation, and died in 1539.

Of his brother *Henry*, surnamed the *Pious*, a curious memoir was written by his secretary, Bernard Freydiger, who sets out with stating that he had been able to collect but little respecting the duke's journey to the Holy Land in 1498. He then proceeds as follows :

The duke seldom spoke of this expedition, which was almost forgotten when I came to Freyberg, unless particular occasion were given for it, as for instance, when mention was made of the gipsies, against whom he was extremely bitter, calling them traitors and spies, because they had discovered and made known who he was in Syria, and thus involved him in great trouble and danger. For this reason he would never suffer them in his states, so that the whole time I was in his service, I never saw any gipsies in his country, though they were to be found in the neighbouring provinces.

"The dean of Freyberg, who was an aulic counsellor, used to give an evening collation to the prince every year on the festival of Epiphany. When the repast was over, and we had all drunk deeply, they began to sing the response, *Illuminare Jerusalem*, which afforded the prince particular pleasure, and

he joined more heartily in the singing than any of the rest. From this he generally took occasion to speak of Jerusalem, and to relate how he, with others, had ridden into the city upon an ass, and sung the response. Whoever had paid more attention to him than to his glass, might have learned from him many particulars; but who cared for such things amidst their cups?

Concerning his pilgrimage to St. Jago de Compostella, I have not heard his highness speak more than once, when he related that he deposited one hundred gold florins on the altar before the image of the saint, saying, 'he had journeyed thither to gain his favour, and therefore presented him with this money; if he (the saint) suffered the fellows (meaning the monks and priests) to take it from him, he (the duke) could not help it.'

The father, duke Albert, had in 1499, with the approbation of the whole country, made an arrangement, by which, after his decease, his son Henry was to possess Friesland, of which he appointed him governor, and George was to have Meissen, Thuringia, and Saxony. The Frieslanders, however, were refractory, and besieged duke Frederic in Franeker. Albert hastened with an army to the relief of his son, and died before Gröningen. The people of Friesland caused a chain to be made, with which they threatened to hang him; it resembled a waggon chain, having six or eight strong links and a large ring. The duke was very fond of such chains; he constantly kept some of them in his bed-chamber, and numbered them among his jewels; and when he was visited by princes or noblemen, he would shew them, and relate the whole history of these articles.

Duke Henry, finding himself unable to retain Friesland, quitted the country, and duke George, agreeably to his father's dispositions, gave up to him the towns and districts of Freyberg, Wolckenstein, Geyer, Ehrenfriedersdoff, and Thum (all of them small places) excepting the mines, besides 13,000 florins and 12 pipes of wine; upon which he repaired to Freyberg and there resided some years before he married.

Of his proceedings and those of his attendants at Frey-

berg I have heard a great deal. A free table was kept for all comers, as is said to have been the case at the court of king Arthur, and I have often heard the prince relate curious stories concerning the love-affairs which there happened. It was expected that he would never marry, but in 1512 he took a wife. I saw her pass through Weissensee. The wedding-dress was very extraordinary, being composed of some thousands of pieces. The principal colours were red and yellow, in stripes half an ell in length, and a quarter broad, joined together; then other stripes two fingers broad, sewed across chequerwise or horizontally, of these four colours, rose colour, yellow, ash-colour, and white, which colours he invariably introduced into the court-dress. Such a dress was a complete piece of patch-work.

When he was at Dresden, he associated more with John, his brother's eldest son, than with duke George, because the latter was accustomed to talk to him concerning matters of government. John, on the other hand, was a good-natured prince whose chief delight was in the kitchen and cellar. It was Henry's practice also, at Freyberg to have three or four substantial meals a day; so that the kitchen was almost his ordinary dwelling-room, though it smelt disagreeably of vinegar and other culinary articles, and was otherwise unpleasant. He likewise took great pleasure in seeing others eat and drink heartily; and was much diverted when citizens, peasants, or people of any condition, quitted his own cellar so intoxicated, that they could scarcely find their way out at the door: at such times he would laugh and exclaim—'By our Lady they are rightly served.'

Though duke George retained the property of all the mines, yet duke Henry was a great favourite with the miners, who were much rejoiced when he came among them. He invited the principal of them to his table, and had a dress and cap like theirs made for himself. In this state, when God had given him children, and his establishment increased, his income proved insufficient. Till the death of his brother George he



had but his annuity of 13,000 florins and twelve pipes of wine, which sum was paid by quarterly instalments. As this was inadequate to his expenses, it often became necessary to borrow money, as I have myself been obliged to do, before the quarter came round. It was always repaid from quarter to quarter; and therefore a regulation was made fixing the quarterly allowance of the prince, the duchess, and each of the servants. Out of the sum of 500 florins, allotted quarterly to the prince, he never pocketed a single penny: indeed I never saw him touch money; and when it was told out, he went away, leaving his porter to receive it, and never afterwards inquiring what became of it or how it was spent. The greatest part of it he laid out in cross-bows, fire-arms, and lastly large cannon; laying up none of it even though the court might be reduced to the greatest distress. The cannon could never be cast large enough for him; and he gave them singular names and caused horribly ugly figures to be made upon them from drawings by Lucas Cranach, painter, of Wittenberg. In his old age there was nothing in which he took so much delight as these cannon; for he would generally go twice or thrice a day to the arsenal, and not suffer a speck of dust to be seen upon the barrels of the guns, but wipe it off with his own cap or cloak, as I have often witnessed—so clean and bright would he have them kept.

When letters were presented to him for his signature, which was only done in regard to matters where it was indispensable, he would exclaim angrily, "I had rather do any thing than write." For my own part I can say with truth that I never knew a prince who disliked writing so much, and I have not seen any letter from his own hand, except one which he wrote in his younger days—unlike his brother George who wrote a great deal both in Latin and German. Hence it was necessary to watch a long time for a favourable opportunity for obtaining his signature.

Though duke Henry became a wealthy prince, upon the death of his brother George, yet he would rather have remained at Freyberg with his guns and cannon. In my opinion too he

would have lived longer had he continued in his former situation : for it put him quite out of his way to be troubled daily with affairs of government. At Freyberg no one durst speak to him on such subjects. On the contrary he was extremely fond of hearing from foreign countries, about the wars or such like news which did not concern him—but especially about battles and the storming of towns. On this account he entertained a high respect for the emperor Charles, considering him alone as his master ; and it gave him great pleasure to be told that the emperor knew about him and his artillery. In regard to religion, he merely followed what was prescribed by the elector, and regulated his conduct by that of the other Protestant states. Such however was his antipathy to the Anabaptists that he caused one poor man to be burned at Dresden, in spite of all the intercessions that were made for him.

Before he died, he manifested no particular fear of death, but continued to use many approbrious epithets, and related many extraordinary stories of his youthful adventures, all of which are not fit to be repeated. The princess, his consort, was very diligent, and performed all kinds of services for him when his attendants were not at hand, so that he even reproved her for it, and would not suffer her to render some such services, as I often witnessed. Two days before he died, she brought him, in a little yellow linen bag, three globules of pure virgin gold, which had never been in the fire, which the emperor Charles, who had received them from the new-discovered islands, sent as a present to duke George :—each about the size of a nut, the like to which I had never seen in all my life, and they looked so delicious, that one might almost have been tempted to bite them. He took one of them, and put it to his mouth, as if he would have bitten it, certainly not out of covetousness as is alleged of many dying persons ; for I stood by and remarked that he was in some degree refreshed by it. He then made her a present of this gold.

As to his manners and habits, he loved to be merry, and was fond of music both instrumental and vocal. When I was

with him at Freyberg, he often sent for priests and others who could sing, and made them sing out of books sent to him from the Low Countries. It was his practice when he went abroad to be up very early, and he would often sit half an hour in his carriage before the horses were harnessed, because he did not keep the time appointed. But in rainy weather or thunder-storms he was extremely impatient and cursed the planets; and he was never so eloquent, nor ever spoke so well or to such good purpose as when he was angry. He was fond of cold dishes, such as roast meat or fish, and always had provisions of this kind with him in a cupboard in his own carriage, for he could not travel more than two German miles without stopping to take a collation.

There was no pride in him, he loved to converse with poor people, and was particularly affable to artisans, whom he often visited in their workshops. In such excursions, his porter, a black boy, and an English dog, often constituted his whole retinue.

Of dress he was wholly regardless: a wolf's skin was his usual habit. He disliked new clothes, but when he had once put them on, he seldom left them off again till they were quite worn out.—He commonly went armed with heavy weapons on each side, such as a sword and dagger, which, though they fatigued him when he grew old, he would not lay aside. The sword which he used in his wars in Friesland, he would not suffer to be removed from his bed-side: an elk-skin was his cuirass, and he never appeared without such weapons and armour. In other respects he lived upon his small revenue in a princely style, as was then the custom, and took care that nothing should be wanting to do honour to the guests by whom he was visited. As he was a prince of a mild disposition, and kind to soldiers, miners, and common handicrafts-men, he was in return beloved and esteemed by all. Besides this he was upright, without deceit or falsehood; what he promised he never failed to perform, frequently even to his own prejudice, which is no mean virtue in a prince, and yet is not met with in many.

FREDERIC *the Wise* succeeded his father Ernest in 1486. In 1493, he resolved, according to the practice of that age, to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, whither he was accompanied among others, by the celebrated painter, Lucas Cranach. In 1502, he founded the university of Wittenberg, the *Alma Mater* of the immortal Luther.\* On the death of the emperor Maximilian, in 1519, his grandson Charles, king of Spain, and Francis I. of France, offered themselves as candidates for the imperial dignity. The electors, however, objecting to both as foreigners, would unanimously have placed the crown on the head of Frederic the Wise, who declined this distinguished honour, on account of his advanced age. He therefore gave his vote and influence to the young king of Spain, who was ultimately elected. Sensible of the obligations which he owed to Frederic, Charles requested his acceptance of 100,000 ducats, which the elector not only refused for his own part, but forbade his ministers and servants to receive the smallest gratuity from the emperor.

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\* Dr. Fleck in the sermon which he delivered at the installation of this university on the 18th of October, 1502, prophetically observed in allusion to the name of the place which signifies a white hill or mountain, that "from this white hill, rivers and streams of wisdom and of life should flow through the whole world."

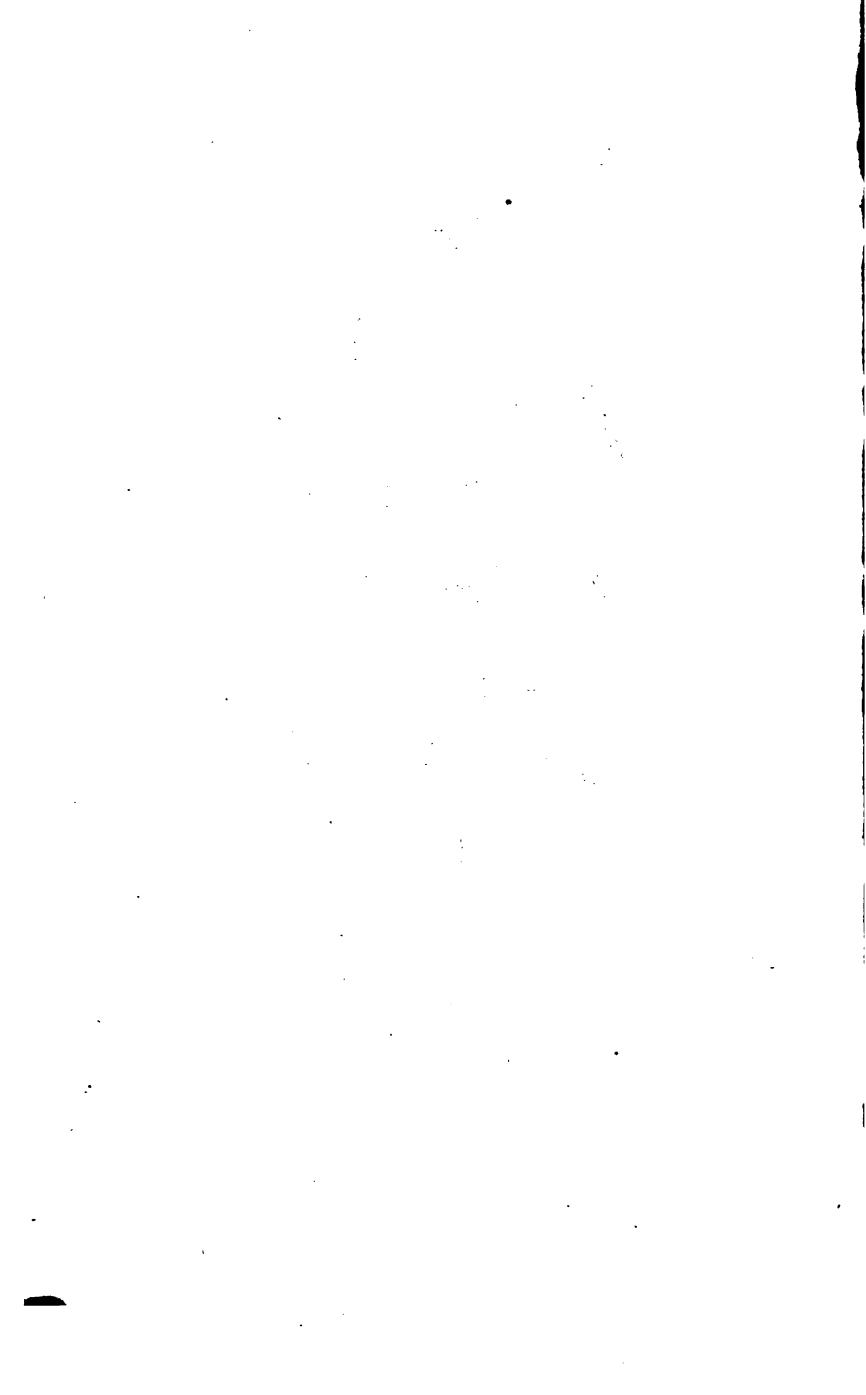


*Lucas Cranach pinx. 1520.*

**FRIDERICUS III ELECTOR SAXONIAE DICT: SAPIENS.**

*Fundator Academiae Wittenbergensis.  
nat. Torgau. 1483. obiit. Schweinitz. 1525.*

Printed by J. Neumann, Neudamm. Sold by J. Neumann, Leipzig.



But what will most endear the memory of this prince to the lovers of truth and religious liberty, even in the remotest ages, was that paternal protection which he afforded to Luther, when he commenced the dangerous task of exposing the errors and abuses of Romish superstition. Of some of these, an old writer gives the following curious particulars.

Before the Reformation, there was at Leipzig, besides the four regular colleges, a fifth, in which resided a company of prostitutes, situated near the Halle gate. They lived under a kind of superintendent, who gave them proper rules for carrying on their trade to the best advantage. They were always very finely dressed, and enticed passengers by all kinds of allurements. This sisterhood annually held a solemn procession on the first day of lent, headed by one of their number, carrying a hideous figure of a man made of straw on the top of a long pole. The others followed two and two, singing various hymns on death, which this figure was probably designed to represent, and finally proceeding to the river Baar, into which they throw it. By this ceremony they pretended to purify the city, and to preserve it throughout the year from pestilence and contagious diseases. A procession equally absurd was that of the Romish clergy, with what they termed the *Palm-Ass*. In the sacristy at Leipzig, was kept a wooden figure representing an ass, and a

man sitting upon it as large as life. This figure they placed in a cart with a canopy over it, and drew it on Maundy-Thursday from St. Thomas's church to the market-place. Hither thronged both old and young, and the priests received the ass and its rider with green willow-boughs, doubtless in allusion to the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, when the multitude strewed his way with olive and palm branches. With this ceremony was connected another, to which the prophetic words, *I will smite the shepherd and scatter the flock*, afforded occasion. The chief of the priests struck the others with a reed, upon which they ran away, and retired from the view of the spectators behind a curtain prepared for the purpose. The whole troop of ecclesiastics then returned to the church. For two or three days nothing was to be seen but plays and comedies, in which the sufferings of our Saviour, how he was betrayed, taken, bound, led before the judgment-seat, scorned, spit upon, crowned with thorns, scourged, crucified, and buried—were represented in detail upon the stage to the people. All the clocks were stopped, and psalms and funeral hymns sung with a doleful voice both night and day, beside the grave constructed in the church. Very early the next morning, young boys ran through the streets and churches with bells, and sung, with hideous cries, a piece in which the traitor Judas was very severely handled. The rest of the day was spent in noise



and tumult. Towards the evening of the last fast-day, the citizens began to provide all sorts of meat, cakes, and pastry, but durst not taste any of these viands till they had been consecrated without committing a deadly sin. Two priests therefore went round with holy water to all the houses, and after repeating a prayer, blessed the provisions, but would not go away again till they had received a portion of them, or money for their trouble. Still the people were not permitted to eat till they had attended mass at night in the church. When mass was over, a disguised priest, personating Jesus Christ, suddenly came forth and knocked violently with a cross which he held in his hand against the church-doors, commanding those who were within to be well secured. The most frightful shrieking and howling ensued, and the people within, representing the evil spirits, complained most piteously that they were deprived of their power over the souls of the dead. After this had lasted some time, the doors were at length burst open by the repeated strokes, and Christ entering as conqueror, drove some away, took others captive, and bound them with iron chains and fetters, with which they made an incessant clanking in the dark, while the souls delivered from the jaws of hell and Satan, followed the triumphant Redeemer in white garments.

It is recorded that various extraordinary prognostics betokened the impending revolution in the established religion of Europe. One of these, as connected with Frederic the Wise, claims a place here. In the night before the feast of All Saints, in 1517, being at the castle of Schweinitz, some miles from Wittenberg, this prince had the following remarkable dream:—A monk of goodly appearance, accompanied by many of the saints from heaven, came to him and solicited permission to write something upon the door of the church of Wittenberg. The elector returned for answer by his chancellor, that he was at liberty to write whatever God had commanded. The monk hereupon went away, and wrote with such large and conspicuous letters upon the door of the church\*, that the elector could read this writing at Schweinitz. The pen which he used was so long, that the ends reached to Rome, pierced through both ears of a lion there, and extended to the triple crown of the pope, which they shook in such a manner that it began to totter, and the cardinals and electors were obliged to run up to prevent it from tumbling. The prince was then informed that the monk had taken this pen from the

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\* The first step taken by Luther towards the great work of the Reformation, was his publication of his theses against the sale of indulgences, by posting them upon the church door at Wittenberg, as will be seen hereafter.

wing of a Bohemian goose, and awoke with the fright. He soon fell asleep again, and again dreamt that he saw the same monk continue writing. The extremity of his pen went through the lion's case, and pricked him so severely that the lion began to roar; on which all the states of the Roman empire ran to see what was the matter. The elector once more awoke, and having repeated the Lord's Prayer, again went to sleep. In a third dream he beheld most of the states of the Roman empire assembled at Rome for the purpose of destroying the monk's formidable pen. All their efforts, however, proved unavailing; the more they strove to break the pen, the stronger it grew, and made such a crackling that his ears rung again, till disappointed and weary, they were obliged to desist. They therefore went away, convinced that the monk was a necromancer sent to bring upon them some great misfortune. The elector then inquired of the monk whence he had obtained this pen, and why it was so strong. He replied that it came out of a Bohemian goose, a hundred years old\*, and had been given to him by his schoolmaster, who charged him on account of its excellence to take care of it, which he

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\* John Huss had just 100 years before fallen a martyr in that cause in which Luther's efforts were crowned by Providence with such signal success. *Huss*, in the Bohemian language, signifies a goose.

had promised to do. Its strength was owing to the circumstance that the soul, or the marrow of the pen, could not be taken out of it. After this a rumour arose that other smaller pens had sprung out of the large one at Wittenberg, though they did not write in the same manner; upon which every scholar was anxious to obtain one of them. When the elector would have continued his conversation on this subject with the monk, he awoke, and thus ended his dream. It is farther recorded, that he immediately related these particulars to his ministers and attendants, and committed them to writing with his own hand, though then far from suspecting the great events to which they alluded.

*Martin Luther*, who was destined by Providence for their fulfilment, was born at Eisleben, on the 11th of November, 1483. Concerning this extraordinary man, the most absurd stories were circulated by the papists. In reference to one of these relative to his birth, Brietius the Jesuit, observes: "He was not begotten by a demon, as some pretend, rather from hatred than because they believe it to be true."—Maimbourg, in his *History of Lutheranism*, also says:—"He was born, not of a demon as some, to increase the hatred of him, have written without any foundation, but in the same way as other men; nor was this ever disputed though he became an arch-heretic. In order to his being such, however, there is no need to substitute.

the devil for his father Hans Luder, or to stain the honour of his mother Margaret Lindemann by the infamy of such a birth." His father, though a poor miner, was an intelligent man, and brought up his son in a strict and religious manner. He was educated at the schools of Mansfeld, Magdeburg, and Eisenach, where, like many of his school-fellows, he gained a scanty subsistence by going about and singing from door to door; till at length the widow of a baker, pleased with his talents, took him into her house and treated him as her own son. In 1501, he removed to the University of Erfurt, and in 1505 obtained the degree of Master of Arts.

His father was desirous that he should study the law, but a particular circumstance diverted him from this pursuit. He had paid a visit to his family at Mansfeld in company with one of his friends named Alexius. On their return, they were overtaken by a violent thunder-storm; the lightning killed his friend by his side, and Luther himself was struck senseless to the ground. Deeply shocked at this catastrophe, he made a vow to embrace a monastic life; which was regarded in those days as the most acceptable to God. He accordingly obtained admission into the Augustine convent at Erfurt, where he was at first obliged to submit to the lowest drudgery, and among other things to go with a sack through the town and collect for the convent. The university, of which he was a member, how-

ever, interfered in his behalf, and he was exempted from these degrading offices. Luther now applied himself with extraordinary industry to study, and especially to the diligent perusal of the Scriptures, which had previously engaged his particular attention. Soon after his arrival at Erfurt, he had seen, for the first time, a Latin Bible, in the university library, and was not a little surprised to find so much more in it than he expected; for he imagined that it contained nothing but the gospels and epistles which were read on Sundays in the churches. A desire to make himself thoroughly acquainted with this precious volume, induced him to study the Hebrew and Greek languages, in which it was originally written. His exemplary conduct and industry won him the esteem of Staupitz, the vicar-general of his Order, who encouraged him to proceed, by the assurance that "God had chosen him for some great purpose." Thus too when on the recommendation of Staupitz, he was appointed, in 1508, Professor of Philosophy in the university of Wittenberg, the rector, Dr. Martin Polichius, after he had heard some of his lectures with astonishment, broke out into this prophetic exclamation:—"Ye will find that this monk will be the Reformer of the Romish church, and the greatest of all our doctors and teachers; as he grounds himself on the writings of the prophets and apostles, and the words of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, which no philosophy,

sophistry, and wisdom, can resist, without the loss of eternal salvation."

In 1510 he was sent upon the business of his Order to Rome, where Julius II. was then seated in the papal chair. This commission was not only honourable but also highly useful to Luther. He expected to find in the capital of the Christian world extraordinary sanctity and piety. He was undeceived, and learned at Rome to view the papal court in a very different light from that in which he had considered it at a distance. His veneration for the holy pontiff was greatly diminished when he witnessed with his own eyes the voluptuous manners of the court, the debauchery of the clergy, and the little respect paid to religion—when instead of the abode of virtue and piety, he found himself in the seat of every abomination and of the most detestable vices. He often declared, after his return, that "he would not for a thousand guilders have missed seeing Rome." In 1512 he was reluctantly prevailed upon to accept the degree of Doctor of the Holy Scriptures, or of Divinity, at the University of Wittenberg.

In 1517, John Tezel, a Dominican monk, notorious for his traffic with indulgences, came to Jüterbock near Wittenberg, where he carried on his infamous trade with great success\*. Many of the

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\* This man's life had been saved some years before, by the

inhabitants of the latter town became his customers, and afterwards, in confession to Luther, as their pastor, acknowledged themselves guilty of very gross sins without expressing the least contrition for them. Luther denied them absolution, and when they pleaded their indulgences, declared that he considered them as of no effect, and could only pay regard to demonstrations of sincere repentance and amendment. The same sentiments he publicly expressed in a sermon delivered on this subject. No sooner was Tezel informed of these circumstances than he vented his rage in the most virulent abuse and menaces against Luther, who, in consequence, posted upon the church-door at Wittenberg, ninety-five theses in defence of his own doctrines, and in condemnation of those taught by his opponent. This proceeding is justly considered as the first step towards the Reformation. [The Dominicans, taking up the cause of their colleague, found means to incense pope Leo X. against Luther, who was cited to appear at Rome to answer for the doctrines which he had promulgated. On the interference of the elector of Saxony, who was fearful of losing so valuable a subject, it was agreed that he should repair to Augsburg, and be there heard by cardinal

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intercession of the elector of Saxony, when the people of Innsbruck were going to drown him for debauching one of their wives.



**Cajetan**, the papal nuncio to the diet. **Cajetan** peremptorily demanded a recantation of all that he had preached, written, and taught, on the subject of indulgences. **Luther** remained firm, and appealed first to the pope and from him to a general council.] This appeal was followed by a bull condemning his works as heretical, prohibiting the reading of them, and ordering them to be burned. Encouraged by the support of his sovereign, who declared that nothing should be published against **Luther** unheard, the Reformer committed the papal bull to the flames before the gates of **Wittenberg**, amidst a great concourse of students and other inhabitants; with these words of **Joshua**:—"Because thou hast troubled the holy ones of the Lord, be thou troubled and consumed with everlasting fire."

He still continued to demand a general council that he might be fully heard, and enjoy an opportunity of defending his opinions. Instead of this, however, he received a summons together with a safe-conduct, from the emperor **Charles V.** to appear before the diet assembled, in 1521, at **Worms**. The friends of the Reformer would have dissuaded him from attending, and emphatically reminded him of the catastrophe of **Huss**. "No," replied the undaunted **Luther**, "as I am summoned and called, I have made up my mind to go in the name of the Lord **Jesus Christ**, even though there were as many devils at **Worms** as tiles upon the house-tops."—He accordingly

went and appeared twice before the assembled princes of Germany, to whom he declared his opinions with the boldness and sincerity of a Christian and a man. When he was about to be ushered the first time into the presence of this illustrious assembly, George von Freundsberg, a brave knight, and celebrated general of Charles V. tapped him on the shoulder and said; "Monk! monk! thou art now going to encounter more than I and many a colonel have ever done in our severest engagements. If thou art assured that thy opinions are right and thy cause just, proceed in the name of God, and be of good cheer; God will not forsake thee!" [Such was the ability with which he defended himself that the elector of Saxony, filled with admiration, afterwards exclaimed to Spalatius!—"Oh! how eloquently did father Martin speak in Latin and German before the emperor and the states! He was, if any thing, too animated."] During, and after this hearing, Luther was assailed with persuasions and threats to induce him to recant; but to no purpose: for to the latter he roundly replied: "If my cause be not of God, it will not prosper longer than two or three years; if it be of God, man will not be able to crush it."—He was dismissed with a safe-conduct. Some violent papists endeavoured to persuade the emperor to withhold this security by the argument which the bigots of the catholic church have frequently ad-

vanced, that a promise made to a heretic is not binding. Charles returned this princely answer: "A promise must be held sacred. Should all the rest of the world lie, an emperor must keep his word." Soon afterwards appeared the edict of Worms, by which he was declared a heretic and put to the ban of the empire, together with all his friends and adherents.

[His sovereign had provided against this contingency; for on his way back to Wittenberg, the elector caused him to be carried off and privately conveyed to the castle of Wartburg, where he might remain in security till the storm raised against him should have in some degree subsided. It was only out of respect to the elector, that Luther consented to the execution of this plan.] In a letter written some days before to the celebrated painter Lucas Cranach, he thus expresses himself: "Dear god-father Lucas, I bless you and commend you to God. I am going to suffer myself to be shut up and concealed, but know not where, though I would rather suffer death; but I must not slight the advice of good people." At the Wartburg, he was kept as a state prisoner nearly a whole year by the name of Master George. In this Patmos, as he termed it, he was engaged among other things in translating the Bible into the German language. It was while thus employed, that the Reformer is said to have been disturbed in his pious occupation by Satan in the shape

of a large buzzing fly ; till at length, losing all patience, he hurled his inkstand at the troublesome intruder. The room which he usually inhabited, and where this circumstance happened, still exists, and contains a portrait of him painted upon wood. The stain of ink made by it upon the wall is also still to be seen, thanks to the care of the keepers of the castle.\* According to the notions of those times it was natural enough to suppose that the devil would neglect no opportunity of persecuting a man whom he could not but consider as his most inveterate enemy : though the fly in the shape of which he is reported to have teased the contemplative writer, was no more actuated by the evil spirit than that which caused our James I. to exclaim, “ Canst thou find no other place than just my nose in all my three kingdoms?”† In this same apartment, Luther is

\* It is a curious fact, that in a wholly Protestant country Luther's apartment was shewn for twenty-two years by a good Catholic.

† Hassencamp, a German writer, offers the following plausible hypothesis on the subject of this story:—“ *Belzebub*, as Luther well knew, signifies in the oriental languages, a *lord*, or *god of flies*. How easily might our Reformer, who notwithstanding his acute and penetrating mind, was strongly tintured by the prejudices imbibed in his youth, have taken a large fly that might have buzzed a long time about his head, while he was at work, till it had made him angry, and afterwards settled provokingly upon the wall just opposite to him, for the devil incarnate ; and thus have been urged by pious zeal to attack him with the inkstand !”

related to have been much disturbed by a goblin of some kind, which would come uninvited to partake of his nuts. These annoyances ought probably to be ascribed to cats, rats, and mice. After some time he was allowed to ride abroad in disguise with a trusty attendant, whose fidelity and intelligence he often commended, particularly because he warned him against laying down his sword in the inns, and running to any books which might lie about, lest he should be taken for a scholar. In a letter to Spalatinus, he writes:—"I have been out two days sporting, desirous of tasting the sweetly bitter pleasures of the great. We have taken two hares and a brace of poor partridges—an employment fit enough for idle people!—At my request one poor hare was preserved alive. I fastened it up in the sleeve of my coat, and went away to a little distance. Meanwhile the dogs found the unfortunate animal, broke its right hind leg through the coat and strangled it, so that we found it quite dead."

[The fanatical proceedings of the Anabaptists at Wittenberg, at the head of whom were men that had been the particular friends of Luther and his doctrines, drew the Reformer from his tranquil retreat, in spite of the representations of the elector Frederic the Wise, who intimated his apprehensions lest the emperor and the pope should demand the delivery of his person.] Such arguments had but little influence on the resolute spirit of Luther, and in com-

pliance with the solicitations of Melancthon and others of his friends, who deemed his presence necessary to the service of his cause, he quitted the Wartburg with a long beard and in the habit of a gentleman, and returned to Wittenberg. Two years afterwards he laid aside the monastic habit, and assumed the dress of a priest, for which the elector Frederic presented him with the cloth. In 1525, he afforded a practical illustration of his sentiments respecting the celibacy of the clergy enjoined by the Romish church, in his marriage with Catherine von Bora.

Frederic the Wise was now dead, and was succeeded by his brother John. [Frederic, though a personal friend to Luther, and not indisposed to the Reformation, yet adhered externally to the Romish religion, and was averse to any violent innovations.] John, upon the other hand, though inferior to his brother in talents, understanding, and influence, was a prince of an excellent heart, who warmly interested himself in the success of the Reformation, for which reason his grateful cotemporaries gave him the surname of the *Constant*. Under his auspices, the doctrines of Luther acquired consistence and stability. A protest delivered by his friends against an ordinance of the diet of Spire, in 1529, procured for them the distinctive appellation of *Protestants*; and the following year they submitted to the diet of Augsburg, their confession of

faith drawn up by Luther and Melancthon. The latter was present at the delivery of this important instrument, but Luther remained meanwhile at the neighbouring castle of Coburg, where he superintended the proceedings. As this confession was not deemed sufficiently precise, Luther was a few years afterwards commissioned to compose a new one, and hence arose the articles finally adopted by the Protestants, and called from the place where they were accepted and signed in 1537, the *Articles of Schmalkalden*.

The last important undertaking of this great man, was an improved edition of his Bible, which appeared in folio in 1541.\* Besides this, which was his principal work, and which would of itself have been sufficient to entitle him to the gratitude of his countrymen in every succeeding age, he wrote and

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\* The most common editions of this version are those printed in what is called the Canstein Bible-office, in the Orphan-house at Halle, founded by a Baron Canstein, who died in 1719. These bibles are printed with standing types, that the books may be afforded at a lower price. The 230th edition appeared in 1804, and as each edition consists of 5000 copies, this institution had up to that time furnished 1,150,000 bibles. In the 34th edition, which was confiscated and is now very rare, occurred the same omission which distinguished an English edition of the sacred volume, and made one of the commandments read thus—*Thou shalt commit adultery*. The copy of this edition in the library of Wölffenbüttel cost 50 dollars.

published an incredible number of sermons, essays, and other pieces, religious, moral, and polemical, which, collected in the Halle edition, form twenty-four quarto volumes. The incessant application bestowed on the various important concerns in which he was engaged and on his literary pursuits at length undermined his health, so that in 1543 he wrote to a friend:—"I, poor, worn-out and almost one-eyed man, hoped to find a little rest, but alas! in vain." He died in 1546, at his birth-place Eisleben, whither he had been invited by the counts of Mannsfeld to adjust some differences between them and their subjects; and his remains were conveyed to Wittenberg for interment.

Some years before Luther's death, the elector had dispensed with the performance of his public functions, and assigned him a pension of 300 guilders. With this slender income, he displayed a disinterestedness that has rarely been equalled and never surpassed. He gave all his works gratuitously to the booksellers; and when one of their number offered him the annual sum of 400 dollars for whatever he might write, he rejected the proposal, saying that "he had not received his gifts from the Creator for sale." Thus too when the elector of Saxony would have remunerated him with a share in the mines for his translation of the Bible, he replied that "he looked not for his reward here but



hereafter\*." When one of his friends observed that it might be prudent to lay by something for the benefit of his family, he answered: "That I will never do; for then they would trust not to God and their hands, but to their money."—In this spirit too it was that he amused himself in his leisure-hours in turnery work, in which he was very expert, and for which he had all the necessary implements made by the best artists of Nürnberg. "With this occupation," says he in a letter to a friend, "when the ungrateful world will give me nothing more, will I support myself after the example of St. Paul, and be troublesome to nobody."—His fondness for music, contracted in his boyhood, accompanied him through life. He even composed chorusses, to which the celebrated Handel, who studied them, acknowledged himself much indebted. His sentiments on the subject of music remind us strongly of the lines

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\* On the subject of this important work he thus expresses himself: "I can testify with a good conscience that I exerted my utmost skill and industry upon it, but not from any improper motive. I never asked or received for it one single farthing. Neither did I seek mine own honour in it, as God my Lord well knows, but have done it out of love to Christ and in honour of him who sitteth above, and is constantly bestowing so much grace upon me, that had I translated a thousand times as much, still I should not have deserved to live a single hour. I expect not to be rewarded for my labour by the world. I have never applied to my sovereign of Saxony for a penny, since I have been here."

written by our own Shakspeare\*, upwards of half a century later. "There is no doubt," says he, "that the seeds of many eminent virtues are to be found in such minds as have a susceptibility for music : but those that have no relish for it I consider as little better than clods and stones. I declare without reserve, and am not ashamed to assert, that excepting theology, there is no science comparable to music ; because that alone, next to theology, can impart what otherwise theology alone can do—tranquillity and a cheerful mind."

Luther had several narrow escapes from the malice of the papists. We are told, that an Italian assassin, hired to dispatch this extraordinary man, obtained admittance to him, but was so deeply affected by his conversation, that he spontaneously confessed the nature of his errand, and earnestly warned him to be upon his guard against similar attempts. A Jewish physician is said to have received 2000 ducats for the same purpose. An attempt of this kind is related to have been made during his attendance on the diet of Worms. The elector of Treves had there invited him to dinner, and just at the moment when Luther was raising a glass filled with wine to his lips, the glass broke and the wine was spilt. This accident surprised the company, and many of them conceived suspicions that the liquor was poisoned. Luther very coolly

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\* Merchant of Venice, Act V. Scene I.

set down the broken glass saying :—" The wine was not destined for me : the fracture was probably owing to the abrupt transition from hot to cold."

During his life-time a print was published in Italy, shewing his miserable death, and how the devil had fetched away his body. This print having fallen into his hands in 1545, he caused to be re-engraved and certified the truth of the story with his own signature.

About a year after his death, when the emperor Charles V. had made himself master of Wittenberg, his favourite, the bishop of Arras, and the notorious duke of Alva, solicited permission to dig up the body of Luther, as an arch-heretic, and to consign it to the flames. The emperor, whose conduct on various occasions displayed a liberality of sentiment to which his base minions were strangers, forbade such a proceeding on pain of death, adding with emphasis : " Let him rest ; he has his judge."—" This fact," says a quaint German writer, " I state for this reason, because the incensed Romish clergy endeavoured to persuade the people that Luther's body had, at his interment, been carried away by the devil, in the form of a flock of ravens, and that consequently nothing but an empty coffin had been deposited in the ground. This story they have propagated by means of a great number of engravings which are publicly sold. To refute it nothing more is necessary than the above-mentioned fact, which is known to the whole world, because it occurred the very year after Luther's death ; and the bishop of Arras,

the duke of Alva, and the whole Spanish army, would have proved themselves egregious fools, had they wished to burn the body of Luther, when they must have known that the devil had flown away with it long before, at his funeral, and thus saved them the trouble."

It is not at all surprising that Roman-catholic writers should revile the memory of this great man. One or two examples of their malignity may perhaps serve to amuse the reader :—

The Spanish satirist Quevedo, in his vision of the last judgment, introduces Luther accompanied by Judas and Mahomet. "As they were about to present themselves before the tribunal," says he, "one of the officers of the court inquired which of the three was Judas. I am, answered Luther; and I am, also cried Mahomet. Upon this the real Judas exclaimed in a vehement passion: 'Lord, I am Judas; thou knowest me well, and knowest too that I am not such a base sinner as these scoundrels. For I sold thee but once, and am in some measure the cause of the redemption of the world, whereas these by selling thee and themselves over and over, have plunged the whole world into misery.'—In his sixth vision of hell, he says: "Next to Calvin was the Saxon Luther, the renegade of St. Augustine, with a devil on either side, each having a pair of bellows, from which, instead of wind, issued flames that penetrated into his ears and burned his brain, but without consuming it, because he confessed in

one of his books that the devil inspired him with the arguments which he employed against the mass. Next to him stood his disciple Melancthon, who was tormented by a devil in such a manner, that I could not forbear laughing: for he did nothing else but turn him first on one side and then on the other, just as a cook does a beefsteak. I asked the devil why he did this, on which he replied: Because Melancthon, when living, professed all religions without distinction, for which reason he was called in his time the German weather-cock."

It is well known to the English reader, that our Henry VIII. was at one time as bitter an enemy to Luther as he afterwards proved to the pope, and that he spared no pains to stifle the Reformation in its birth. [In this spirit he wrote to the elector Frederic the Wise, and to the other princes of his house, "intreating them by all that was dear to them, and even by the ties of blood between England and Saxony, not to suffer this arch-heretic to translate the New Testament into the German language."—] The same monarch, for his book against Luther in defence of the seven sacraments, received from the pope the title of *Defender of the Faith*, which was retained by his successors.

In the collection of *Epigrams* by the Jesuit Andreas Frusius, printed at Cologne, and now extremely rare, is the following in which the initial of every word contributes to form an acrostic of Luther's name.

*Elogium MARTINI LUTHERI, ex Ipsius Nomine et  
Cognomine.*

Depinget dignis te nemo coloribus unquam ;  
Nomen ego ut potero, sic celebrabo tuum.

|              |            |            |           |                |
|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Magni crepus | Mendax     | Morosus    | Morio     | Monstrum       |
| Ambitiosus   | Atrox      | Astutus    | Apostata  | Agaso          |
| Ridiculus    | Rhetor     | Rabiosus   | Rabula    | Raptor         |
| Tabificus    | Tumidus    | Tenebrosus | Transfuga | Turpis         |
| Impius       | Inconstans | Impostor   | Iniquus   | Ineptus        |
| Nycticorax   | Nebulo     | Nugator    | Noxa      | Nefandus       |
| Ventosus     | Vanus      | Vilis      | Vulpecula | Vecors         |
| Schismaticus | Stolidus   | Seductor   | Simia     | Scurra         |
| Lascivus     | Leno       | Larvatus   | Latro     | Lanista        |
| Ventripotens | Vultur     | Vinosus    | Vappa     | Voluptas       |
| Tartareus    | Torris     | Tempestat  | Turbo     | Tyrannus       |
| Hæresiarcha  | Horrendus  | Hypocrita  | Hydra     | Hermaphroditas |
| Erro         | Execrandus | Effrons    | Effrenis  | Erinnis        |
| Retrogradus  | Reprobus   | Resupinus  | Rana      | Rebellis       |
| Vesanus      | Varius     | Veterator  | Vipera    | Virus          |
| Sacrilegus   | Satanas    | Sentina    | Sophista  | Scelestus      |

JOHN *the Constant* succeeded his brother, Frederick the Wise, in 1525. His first wife was the daughter of Magnus, duke of Mecklenburg. He celebrated his nuptials with this princess in 1500, at Torgau, with such pomp, that during the festivities 11,000 persons and 7000 horses were daily entertained by the court. This prince is described as having been of a peaceable and pious disposition. In the early part of his life he seems to have been

as strongly attached to the Roman-catholic religion as he afterwards was to the Protestant faith; at least, if we may judge from the will which he drew up in 1516, in the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity, and also of the following saints:—the blessed virgin Mary; the apostle, St. James the Great, the three kings; St. Christopher, St. George, St. Jerome, St. Francis, St. John the baptist, St. John the apostle, St. Anthony, St. Sebastian, St. Florian, St. Sigismund, St. Boniface, St. Eustace, St. Egidius, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Lawrence, St. Hubert, St. Anna, St. Blaise, St. Barbara, St. Catherine, St. Margaret, St. Dorothy, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Apollonia, St. Alexis, St. Roche, St. Job, St. Valten, St. Michael, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Nicholas, St. Martin, St. Elisabeth, St. Stephen, St. Wolfgang, and all saints.

At the time of his accession to the electoral dignity, the peasants of Thuringia were in open insurrection against the government. Conversing with Luther on this subject, he once expressed himself in the following terms:—"Is it true that God has made me a powerful prince, so that I have several thousand horsemen at my command. But if he thinks fit that I should not remain such, I will not deem it a hardship and be angry with him, but cheerfully submit to his decrees, even if he should be pleased to leave me no more than eight, or even only four horses."

John was at the head of those princes, who in 1530 caused the Protestant confession to be delivered to the diet at Augsburg, for which reason the emperor refused him the investiture of his dominions. The elector therefore quitted Augsburg before the diet was over, and commissioned the margrave of Brandenburg to assure the emperor, that "rather than secede from the pure evangelical doctrine, he would suffer his grey head to be laid at his (the emperor's) feet." To this spirited declaration, Charles in his low German dialect replied: "No head off, prince! no head off!"

JOHN FREDERIC *the Magnanimous*, eldest son of John the Constant, succeeded his father in 1532. It is related that this prince at his birth brought with him into the world a mark, yellow as gold, in the form of a cross, upon his back; and that the priest who baptized him, an aged, upright, and pious man, when this mark was shewn to him, heaved a deep sigh and said: "Gracious God! this infant during his mortal life will certainly have to bear a great and heavy cross!"—a prediction which, says an old writer, subsequent events certainly confirmed.

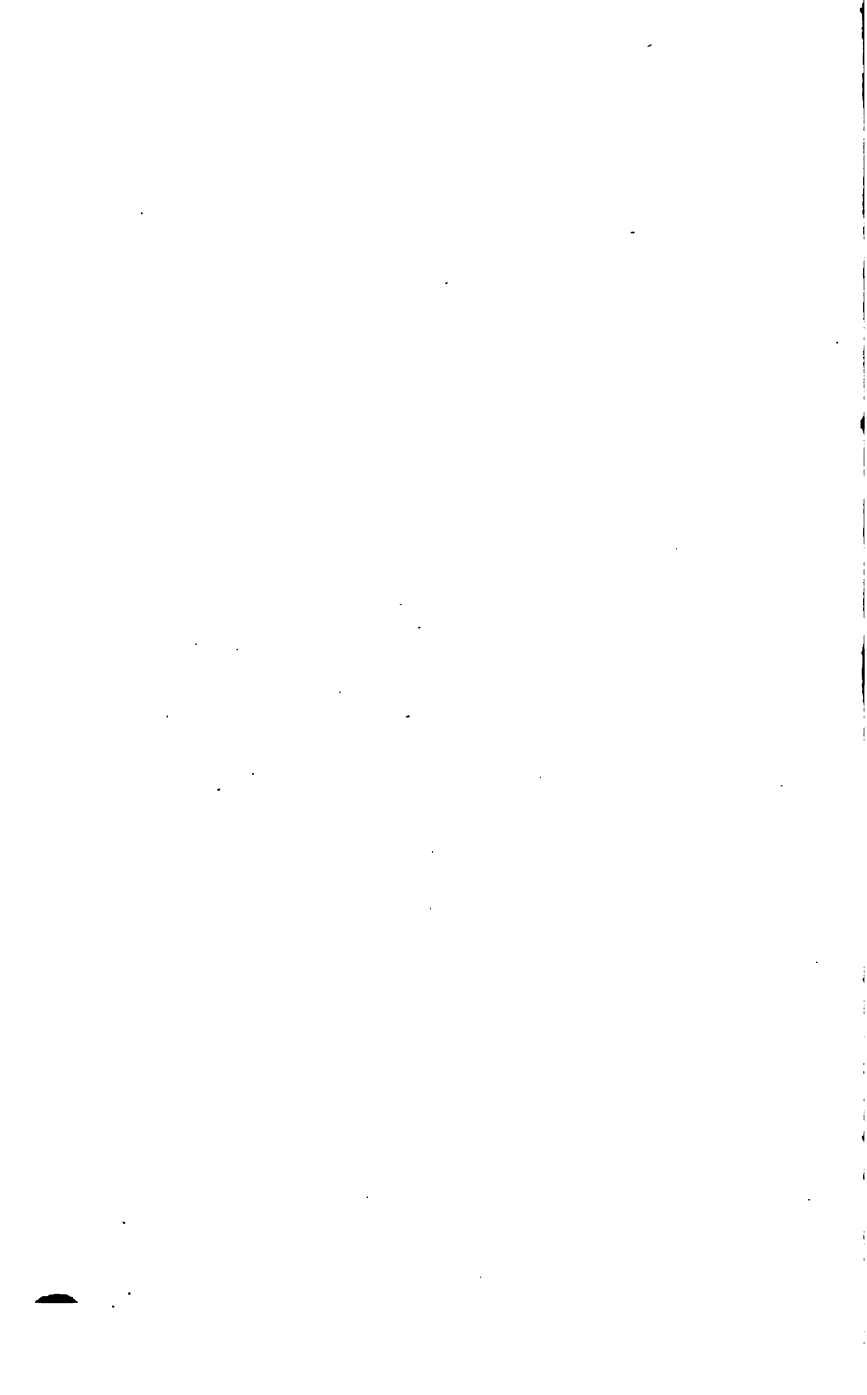
This elector was a most zealous friend to the doctrines of the Reformation, and the chief of the Protestant princes who entered into the treaty of Schmalkald, in defence of those doctrines. On this account he was put to the ban of the empire by Charles V. In the war which ensued, he was





aus Gmüch. p. 143.

JOH: FRIDERICUS ELECT: SAXONIAE DICT: MAGNIFICENTUS  
*nat. Torgavia, 1503. obiit: Weimariv, 1554.*



defeated on the 24th of April, 1547, in the battle of Mühlberg, where, after a most obstinate resistance, he was wounded and taken, but refused to surrender to any except a German. On the 10th of May, the emperor in his camp before Wittenberg adjudged his unfortunate prisoner to be beheaded as an outlaw, and directed this sentence to be executed on a scaffold erected for the purpose in the field. The elector was engaged in a game at chess with his fellow-captive duke Ernest, of Lüneburg, when the imperial commissioner reached his tent to read to him this severe sentence. He heard it without betraying any agitation, and replied that, "he hoped the emperor would treat him rather more mercifully; but if he was in earnest, he begged to be told so, that he might make some dispositions respecting his wife and children." He then turned to his companion, saying; "Let us finish our game!" This coolness excited the admiration of the conqueror, who, at the intercession of the elector of Brandenburg, granted him his life; but produced eight conditions, the principal of which was, that "he should accede to the decisions of the emperor and the council of Trent in regard to religion." To this requisition he firmly replied, that "he was determined to adhere stedfastly to the confession delivered at Augsburg by his father, himself, and other princes, and rather to lose his dignity, his territories, nay even his life, than suffer himself to be

separated from the word of God." The emperor, admiring his fortitude, erased the obnoxious article with his own hand, and gave orders that his prisoner should not be again importuned on the subject. By a capitulation concluded in the same camp on the 19th of May, John Frederic was deprived of the electoral dignity and all his dominions, which the emperor conferred on his cousin, duke Maurice, of Meissen, who agreed to give up Weimar, with some other towns and districts, and to pay a yearly sum of 50,000 guilders to the children of his predecessor.

The captive prince was conducted as it were in triumph to Augsburg, where, from his apartment he could view all the ceremonies attending the investiture of Maurice with the dignities and possessions of which he had been deprived. Nothing, however, could shake his fortitude, and on the latter occasion he is said to have thus expressed himself: "How Maurice's people rejoice at my being deprived of the electorate! The Almighty grant that they may henceforth enjoy it so peaceably as to have no need of me or mine!"

The place appointed for the confinement of this magnanimous prince was Innspruck. Here he formed the plan of that celebrated seminary the university of Jena, which was afterwards completed by his sons. After a detention of five years his release being demanded by his successor Maurice, and some other German princes who had formed





*Lucas Cronach pinx. 1646.*

JOHANNES ERNESTUS, DUX SAXONIAE COBURGENSIS.

*nat. 1521. denat. 1553. aetat. 32.*

*Published May 1 1816, at R. Ackermann's 101 Strand.*

an alliance against the emperor, the latter was induced to put an end to his captivity, in 1552. John Frederic having first attended Charles V. to Augsburg, hastened to Weimar, where he was received by his subjects with every possible demonstration of joy. The schoolboys and girls with flowing hair and crowned with garlands of rue, went out of the town to receive him, singing the *Te Deum*. His consort proceeded as far as Coburg to meet him and swooned with joy at the first interview.

The elector had a half-brother named *John Ernest*, to whom, on attaining his majority in 1542, he had ceded the principality of Coburg with an annuity of 14,000 florins. This prince who married a daughter of Philip I., duke of Brunswick-Grubenhagen, built the castle of Ehrenburg, the usual residence of the princes of Coburg, and died without issue in 1553, when his country reverted to the deposed elector.

On the 21st February, 1553, death deprived John Frederic of his affectionate consort Sibylla, who was interred before the high altar in the church of Weimar. In giving directions for the funeral of this princess, the elector said to his secretary; "Tell the masons to leave a place for me by my wife, for I shall soon follow and be laid beside her." This prediction was speedily accomplished, for he expired on the 3d of March, in the 51st year of his age.

The elector was a man as extraordinary for

stature and strength of body as for vigour of mind. The lank Spanish soldiers of Charles V. looked upon him as a giant, and asserted that each of his boots would hold a man. This was certainly an exaggeration, yet those who have had an opportunity of examining these relics, which are still preserved in the collections of curiosities at Gotha and Munich, assure us that they are capacious enough to contain a child five years old.

At this period, and indeed till the 18th century, it was customary for every prince and princess to have a peculiar motto. That chosen by John Frederic was *Verbum Domini manet in Aeternum*. The initials of this sentence, V.D.M.I.AE. were worn by himself, as well as by all his servants upon their sleeves. During the life-time of his father, whilst he was attending a diet as his representative, an archbishop observed to him, "These letters upon your clothes, and those of your servants, signify, I suppose, '*Verbum Dei manet in aermel*'" (The word of God abideth in the sleeve), alluding to the lawn sleeves of his own order. "No," rejoined the prince sharply, "they mean, '*Verbum diaboli manet in archi-episcopis*'"—The word of the devil abideth in archbishops.

*Lucas Cranach*, not more distinguished for his talents as a painter, than for his virtues, his integrity, and in particular for his attachment to the unfortunate elector, survived his master only a few months. This artist was a native of Cranach, a



small town in the bishopric of Bamberg. His proper name was *Müller*, or as some say, *Sunder*, but according to the general custom of the painters of that age, he always styled himself from his birth-place *Lucas Cranach*. He was instructed in the rudiments of drawing by his father, but it is not known who was his master. As he resided for some time in the Netherlands where in 1508 he painted a portrait of the emperor Charles V., then a boy of eight years, at Mechlin, where so many eminent masters, such as Lucas van Leyden, Gerhard van Harlem, and others, had lived or were then living, it seems probable that he studied his art in this school. About the end of the 15th century, he settled in Saxony on the invitation of that patron of the arts, the elector, Frederic the Wise. He settled at Wittenberg, where he married, and, after holding inferior municipal offices, was invested by his fellow-citizens with the dignity of burgomaster, in 1547. On the death of Frederic the Wise, whom, as it has been already observed, he accompanied in his pilgrimage to the Holy Land; Cranach enjoyed in an equal degree the favour of his successor, John the Constant; and lived in the closest familiarity with his son, John Frederic the Magnanimous. He was so great a favourite with the latter, that he kept him constantly about his person, and such was the affection of the artist for the elector, that, resigning his office of burgomaster, he cheerfully shared with him his five years' confinement at Innspruck. It

has even been surmised that he may have contributed in some degree to the liberation of his master; for when the emperor, who was fond of seeing him at work, recollecting the portrait which Cranach had painted of him when a child, asked how old he was then? and was answered by the artist, "eight years," Charles graciously desired that he would ask some favour of him. Cranach threw himself at his feet, and, with a generous disregard of his private interest, solicited the release of his sovereign; on which the emperor turning with admiration to his attendants exclaimed: "I know not a happier prince than the Saxon—he possesses at least one true friend." Cranach had the satisfaction to see the speedy accomplishment of his wish, and to find that it had gained him the esteem of the emperor. He repaired to Weimar with his patron, with whom he determined to pass the remainder of his days, and died in that city, October 16th, 1553, aged 81 years. Cranach was an intimate friend of Luther's, and felt a warm interest in all his domestic circumstances; that great reformer was attached with equal warmth to this generous artist, took great delight in watching him at his work, and passed many happy hours in his society.—Cranach's paintings, among which are portraits of many of his most distinguished cotemporaries, are very numerous. He also carved a great deal in wood, and his performances in this line are much sought after and esteemed by amateurs.

## ALBERTINE LINE

### OF THE HOUSE OF SAXONY.



MAURICE, in whose person the electoral dignity and dominions were transferred from the Ernestine to the Albertine line of the house of Saxony, was the son of duke Henry, of Meissen, of whom a circumstantial account has been given in the preceding pages. He was originally a warm adherent of Charles V., whom he greatly assisted in the war which terminated in the deposition of his unfortunate predecessor. He had not, however, been long seated in his place, before the ambitious projects of the emperor converted Maurice into an avowed enemy. One cause of his hostility was the detention of his father-in-law, Philip, landgrave of Hesse, who had surrendered himself to the emperor upon receiving a promise that he should "not be subjected to any imprisonment,"—but in which the word *einiger* (any) was written in such a manner that it might pass for for *ewiger* (everlasting), as it was contended to be by his adversaries. It must be confessed that this miserable quibble is quite inconsistent with the many noble traits that distinguish the character of Charles V. The haughtiness of the Spaniards about the emperor is moreover stated to have reached at this time to such a height, that his son,

Don Philip, and even the duke of Alva, would scarcely condescend to move their hats to return the salutes of the German princes.

Maurice was a brave and able general, and on commencing hostilities in 1552, such was the rapidity of his movements, that he had nearly surprised the emperor at Innspruck. It is indeed intimated in various memoirs that he might have taken him prisoner if he had pleased, and that on being asked why he did not, he replied, that "he had no cage fit for so magnificent a bird."

The elector afterwards signalized himself against the Turks in Hungary; and in 1553, received a mortal wound in battle with Albert, margrave of Brandenburg, near the village of Sivershausen, in the duchy of Lüneburg. The ball which inflicted the wound was of silver; it penetrated through his armour from behind, and is supposed to have been fired either through treachery or carelessness, by one of his own people. Three princes of the house of Brunswick, who fought under Maurice's banners, also fell on this occasion, together with a great number of counts and noblemen. Camera-rius in his funeral sermon over the elector, who expired in the arms of victory, mentions various tokens which preceded this sanguinary engagement; for instance, during a violent hurricane at Berlin, the force of the wind broke off the head from Maurice's statue at the palace of that city, while

the effigies of the emperor and the other electors sustained no injury—the leaves of the trees in many places were found sprinkled with blood—the dogs howled, and bit and tore one another—the noise of men and horses, and strange sounds in the air, were often heard at midnight—and during the campaign, a tempest overturned the elector's tent, and that used for his kitchen, but spared all the rest.

AUGUSTUS succeeded his brother Maurice. His first wife was Anna, daughter of Christian, king of Denmark. This princess, before her marriage, was not ashamed to say grace aloud with folded hands, at her father's table, together with her other sisters. She died in October, 1585, of a contagious disease then prevalent at Dresden; and during her illness, when public prayers were to be offered up for her in the churches, she expressly desired, that they might be solicited in these terms, and no other, "The prayers of this Christian congregation are requested for a poor sinner whose last hour is at hand." About three months after her decease the elector, then in his 60th year, married a daughter of prince Joachim Ernest, of Anhalt, who had not quite completed her 13th year; but in less than five weeks after this union, he was carried off by apoplexy.

In the last years of his reign, alchemy was the favourite pursuit of this prince. He carried it on with the aid of the most skilful professors; and some have even not hesitated to ascribe the flourish-

ing state of the country during his reign to his success in the practice of the art. Palaces and magazines were erected, and so many useful institutions arose that, as it is contended, the expense of them could not have been defrayed by the regular revenues of the state. At the present day no rational person will doubt that the sums employed for these purposes, as well as the seventeen millions of dollars left by Augustus at his death in his coffers, were rather the fruits of strict economy during a long and peaceful reign, than of his skill in the transmutation of metals. His first wife, Anna, seconded her husband with all her power in his chemical pursuits. She made successful experiments herself, and constructed, at the castle of Annaburg, a magnificent laboratory, which had not its equal in Europe. The four chemical furnaces were in the figure of a horse, a lion, an ape, and an eagle, of the size of life. The latter was decorated with golden wings, and contained within it what was denominated a chapel. This edifice, which had so many lofty chimnies as to resemble a church with a great number of spires, was destroyed in the thirty years' war.

Augustus is said to have applied himself in his 47th year to recover his lost Latin, and to have frequently declared, when he blundered in the genders, that "he would give a ton of gold that all nouns in *a* were of the feminine gender."—He was accus-

tomed to say that "persons ought to be provided for offices, and not offices for persons." He was a great friend to agriculture, and always carried with him a bag full of the stones and pips of the best kinds of fruits, which he caused to be planted wherever he went, and thus conferred an essential benefit on posterity.

CHRISTIAN I. succeeded his father in 1586, and died in 1591, in the 31st year of his age.

CHRISTIAN II. was distinguished for piety and clemency. He therefore tempered justice with mercy, well knowing that the greatest justice is frequently the height of injustice, and said, that he was admonished to do so by the electoral arms, which are two red swords in a black and white field. His motto, which he very frequently repeated was, "I fear God, honour the emperor, and love justice." He generally stood during the time of divine service, and often exhorted his chaplains to deal more severely with him in their sermons. He was himself extremely strict in regard to every thing connected with genuine religion, and in the first year of his government, issued a severe edict against adultery and fornication. Once when he was absorbed in profound thought, one of his attendants inquired the reason. He replied that "he was considering with sorrow how he had misapplied the years of his youth, so that he was now obliged to hear with the ears, see with the eyes, and also to speak with the lips of others, which gave him the deepest con-

cern." His liberality and kindness were such that he could scarcely refuse any request that was preferred to him, and it was his daily wish "that he had it in his power to make every body happy." He died in 1611, at the early age of 27 years.

JOHN GEORGE I. brother of Christian II. At an early age this prince made a tour through Germany and Italy, during which he had some narrow escapes with his life. At Milan he was seized with a dangerous illness, but being unprovided with a certificate of confession, no medical man would prescribe for him, till at length physicians were fetched from Augsburg and Lindau. Soon after his return home, in 1602, he was sailing with his brother the elector, upon the Elbe, when the vessel in which they were, caught fire, and he leaped overboard, but safely reached the shore.

During his reign, Saxony, in common with the greater part of Germany, was cruelly ravaged by contending armies in the thirty years' war. It was in this contest that the brave Gustavus Adolphus fell at Lützen, in the arms of victory, in 1632. Such was the devastation occasioned by the military operations in the dominions of the elector, that in the little town of Schmiedberg, which previously contained 400 inhabitants, only one single married couple survived the calamities of war, famine, and pestilence.

JOHN GEORGE II. succeeded his father in 1656, and died in 1680.



This prince had three brothers, Augustus, Christian, and Maurice, who were the founders of the houses of Saxe-Weissenfels, Saxe-Merseburg, and Saxe-Weitz. The first became extinct in 1746; the second in 1731, and the third in 1718, when their dominions reverted to the electoral family.

**JOHN GEORGE III.** This prince particularly distinguished himself in 1683, by the share which he took in the operations that compelled the Turks to raise the siege of Vienna, and died in 1691, whilst commander-in-chief of the army of the empire employed against the French.

**JOHN GEORGE IV.** was at his birth declared heir-apparent to the throne of Denmark, in right of his mother, who was the daughter of king Frederic III. In 1693, the English Order of the Garter was transmitted to him by the hands of a special envoy. He died in 1694.

**FREDERIC AUGUSTUS I.** who succeeded his brother John George, was remarkable for his extraordinary personal strength. "If we were to relate," says Glafey, in his History of Saxony, "how often this German Samson broke iron bars, and squeezed and rolled up silver, copper, tin, and other vessels like pieces of paper, posterity would look upon it as fable and romance, though thousands of all classes still living were eye-witness of these facts." Ludewig, the historian, also makes mention of "his gigantic strength, by which he was enabled to crush and roll together dishes, plates, and goblets of silver, tin,

copper, or any other metal however strong, with as much ease as a piece of paper or a handkerchief\*.”

In 1697, this prince was elected king of Poland, having previously, in order to qualify himself for that dignity, exchanged the protestant for the catholic faith, to which his successors have ever since adhered. The dress in which he received the embassy sent to announce his elevation to the throne was so profusely enriched with diamonds as to have been valued at no less a sum than a million of dollars.

The military renown which Frederic Augustus had obtained in his campaigns against the Turks was eclipsed by the vicissitudes experienced by him in his wars with Charles XII. of Sweden, which are well known to every reader from the life of that monarch by Voltaire. He died in 1733.

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\* Among other curious anecdotes related concerning this subject is the following:—In one of his rides his horse lost a shoe, and the elector entered a blacksmith's shop to procure another. The blacksmith brought one and was preparing to put it on, when the king took up the shoe and broke it in pieces with the greatest facility. He then desired the man to bring a better, which, as well as several others, he broke in the same manner. At length declaring they were all equally bad, he suffered the poor fellow to fit on a shoe without subjecting it to this ordeal. In payment for this service he gave a piece of money which required a rix-dollar to be returned in the change. Taking the dollar between his fingers he snapped it in two with the same ease as he had done the horse-shoes. The blacksmith confounded with this fresh proof of his strength, vehemently protested that “he must be either the devil or the elector.”

**FREDERIC AUGUSTUS II.** married a daughter of the emperor Joseph I., and was like his father raised to the throne of Poland. He died in 1763.

**FREDERIC CHRISTIAN** married the daughter of Charles VII., emperor of Germany and elector of Bavaria. His eldest sister was the wife of Charles III., king of Spain, consequently mother to Charles IV., and grandmother to Ferdinand VII. His next sister was married to the elector of Bavaria, who died in 1777, and a third to Louis, dauphin of France, by whom she was the mother of the unfortunate Louis XVI. His brother Albert, duke of Saxe Teschen, was governor and captain-general of the Austrian Netherlands, and married Maria Christina, daughter of the emperor Francis I., who died in 1798. The monument erected by him to the memory of this princess at Vienna, is considered as one of the finest performances of the celebrated Canova. Another brother, Clemens Wenzel, became in 1768 elector of Triers. Frederic Christian survived his father but two months.

**FREDERIC AUGUSTUS III.**, born Dec. 3, 1750, succeeded his father Dec. 17, 1763, under the guardianship of his uncle prince Xavier. He married in 1769 *Maria Amelia Augusta*, daughter of the duke of Deux-Ponts, and sister to the present king of Bavaria, by whom he has one daughter *Maria Augusta*, born in 1782.

On the final dissolution of the Germanic constitution in 1806, this prince assumed the royal title, and by the peace of Tilsit in the following year became sovereign of the duchy of Warsaw, which was formed out of the Prussian part of Poland. After the signal defeat of the French before Leipzig in October 1813, the king of Saxony, who awaited in that city the arrival of the allied sovereigns, was considered as a prisoner and conveyed to Prussia, where he remained more than a year. The treaty signed in Congress at Vienna in 1815, not only deprived him of his recent acquisitions in Poland, but likewise of nearly one half of his hereditary dominions.

It is impossible for any feeling mind to contemplate the severe stroke of fate which this prince has sustained in his declining years, without deeply deploring his situation, and that of the faithful subjects torn from his paternal care. The beneficence of his government; his steady encouragement of manufactures, industry, and commerce; his judicious patronage of the fine arts and the sciences which enlighten mankind; joined to the representative constitution enjoyed by his people, had raised Saxony to such a pitch of prosperity above her neighbour states, that she was looked upon in the midst of Germany with the same jealous eye as Britain is beheld in the midst of her tributary ocean by the rest of the world. What wonder that the

natives of this happy land should cherish a glowing affection for their native country, should pride themselves on her envied distinction, and cling with filial attachment to the sovereign to whom she so much owed this pre-eminence ! Let the reader judge then with what feelings these people must have learned the decision of the assembled potentates of Europe which wrested almost half of the kingdom, and little less than half of its population, from the sceptre of a beloved monarch, and incorporated them with a state, between which and their own a strong national antipathy had long existed. Full well I know that in Britain, where above all the countries of the globe such an argument would be least expected, there have not been wanting persons, who, to serve a particular purpose, have attempted to characterize as a silly prejudice that fond attachment which binds men to the soil that gave them birth, and to a sovereign endeared by the remembrance of past glory, and the feeling of present benefits.—Admitting for a moment that patriotism were a prejudice, still I would maintain it to be a prejudice which is the parent of the sublimest virtues—a prejudice which no ridicule will ever be able to eradicate from the heart of man—a prejudice, the extinction of which, were it possible, would go a great way towards reducing him to the level of the brutes to whom every country is indifferent, provided it affords the sensual gratifications of which alone they are susceptible.

Saxony whilst entire, might be considered as composed of two divisions, differing not more in soil, than in the occupations and pursuits of their inhabitants. The one, rich and fertile, furnished corn, cattle, and salt ; the other naturally poor, was the seat of mines and manufactures ; and both were enriched by the interchange of their respective productions.—As if to give additional keenness to the separation, the former has been rent from the Saxon sceptre ; and thus the industrious inhabitants of the latter, are doomed with their comparatively barren soil, to be in a great measure dependent upon foreigners for the first necessities of existence.

During the time that the fate of Saxony continued in suspense, and its total annihilation as an independent state was threatened, no means that self-interest and malice could suggest for the purpose of blackening the character of king Frederic Augustus, and rendering him odious to the world, were left untried. He was branded as an infatuated admirer of Buonaparte, and a zealous adherent to that system which the ambitious ruler of France would fain have established on the continent. He was stigmatized as a bigotted catholic, and consequently disqualified to govern a nation of protestants. These accusations were re-echoed even in this country in terms which betrayed the grossest ignorance. One or two facts will suffice to prove that the king of Saxony was not so obsequious

an instrument of Napoleon's designs, as he has been represented. It is well known that this monarch indignantly refused the sacrifice of his daughter to the conqueror; and when, moreover, Buonaparte had decreed the subjugation of Spain, and, as protector of the Rhenish confederation, applied to the sovereigns belonging to it for the contingents stipulated in case of war, Frederic Augustus not only refused to furnish a single man, but expressed the strongest abhorrence of the unhallowed enterprise. Buonaparte, so far from resenting this firmness, was impressed by it with such respect, that he would occasionally ask and follow the advice of the king of Saxony, though his pride would not suffer him to accept, much less solicit counsel from any other potentate.

If this prince was one of the last who joined the cause of injured Europe against her oppressor, the reason is not to be sought in the unwillingness of his Majesty to consult the general welfare, but in the peculiar circumstances in which himself and his unfortunate kingdom were placed during the memorable campaign of 1813. Of that campaign Saxony was the theatre. An army of 200,000 French had complete possession of the country, upon whose vitals it was preying; and here the imperial tiger, whose friendship was destruction, awaited the attack of his courageous pursuers. In this situation it is obvious that resistance to such a force was wholly

out of the question ; and his Majesty, waving every consideration of personal safety, generously resolved to remain among his faithful subjects, and to share their fate, whatever that fate might be ; hoping also by his presence, at least to mitigate some of the hardships, oppressions, and exactions, to which they were exposed, as well on the part of friends as foes. It is well known that during the obstinately contested battle of Leipzig, when for three days the fortune of Europe hung in awful suspense, the conduct of the Saxon troops in joining the banners of the Allies contributed to turn the scale in their favour, and to ensure that preponderance upon which the liberties of mankind depended. The king again refuted the charge of devotion to the will and attachment to the person of Buonaparte, by rejecting his proposal to accompany him to France, or at least to Weissenfels, and there to negotiate with the Allies. Conscious of the rectitude of his intentions, and feeling that in the course which he had taken, he had but obeyed the dictates of inexorable necessity, his Majesty remained at Leipzig when the conquerors entered the city, in the full confidence that the combined sovereigns would duly appreciate his situation and sentiments, and admit him into their alliance, now that the departure of the enemy had left him at liberty to act without control. In this confidence he was deceived ; his country lay too conveniently for the ag-



grandizement of an ambitious neighbour to allow either reason or justice to plead in his behalf; his majesty was conveyed a prisoner to Prussia; and while his troops assisted in the destruction of the common foe, his kingdom was seized by those under whose banners they were fighting. A thousand pens were now set in motion to vilify the exiled monarch, and to convince the world of the sound policy, the general advantage, nay even the justice, of transferring Saxony to another sceptre. It was moreover contended that such a change could not fail to be productive of the most beneficial consequences to the country itself, and that the inhabitants would derive innumerable blessings from the exchange of a superstitious Catholic for an enlightened Protestant sovereign. Whoever might be convinced by these arguments, it was evident that the persons most deeply interested, the Saxons themselves, were ungrateful enough not to appreciate the value of the intended kindness. Never were the will and the wishes of a whole nation more unequivocally expressed—never was aversion to foreign authority more clearly evinced—never was attachment to a ruler more strongly manifested; than by the Saxons of all classes to their adored king during his involuntary exile. Their remonstrances and their petitions were alike disregarded; the right of the stronger prevailed: and I am assured,

that but for "a still small voice" whose whispers were heard in the British cabinet, the Saxon name and nation would have been doomed to sink into provincial dependence.

That the king of Saxony is a catholic, is true; but he is as far removed from bigotry and superstition, as a good christian of any other religious denomination. It is universally acknowledged, that notwithstanding the adoption of the catholic faith by his great-grandfather, which produced the political anomaly of a family of that persuasion reigning over an entire nation of Protestants, in the very country too which gave birth to the doctrines of the reformation; this circumstance has not in the slightest manner impaired that mutual confidence which ought to subsist between the subjects and the sovereign. It is equally notorious that no state in Europe enjoys the blessings of toleration in a higher degree than Saxony; and nothing can better demonstrate the feelings of his Protestant people themselves on this head, than the unfeigned love and veneration which they have shewn under the most trying circumstances during the past century to their rulers, and in particular to their present sovereign. His majesty on his return to his capital, in June, 1815, instituted the Order of Civil Merit, expressly for the purpose of rewarding the attachment manifested by his faithful ser-

vants and subjects during their painful separation.

If the partition of Saxony is likely to prove peculiarly distressing to that portion which Frederic Augustus has been suffered to retain, it must be considerably injurious also to British commerce, as the following circumstance alone will suffice to prove. The city of Leipzig is well known to be a commercial emporium, for the supply of traders not only from the rest of Germany, but from every continental region. To this mart are brought vast quantities of English manufactured goods, which, before the division of the kingdom, were allowed to be imported free from impost. Since the partition, these commodities in their way to Leipzig, must pass through the provinces ceded to the Prussian government, which will no doubt profit by this opportunity, to lay a duty upon their transit.

Here let me avail myself of that part of an Englishman's birth-right, the privilege of expressing his sentiments without disguise, and declare my regret that the British cabinet should have acceded to this spoliation of a sovereign with whose people we are allied, remotely it is true, by the ties of blood, and still more by similarity of moral character. If justice, if patriotism, if humanity, if interest, had not sufficient weight to induce us to resist such a proceeding, a regard for the welfare and peace of Europe ought to have engaged us to oppose it with

quired by the sole right of conquest; or that there should exist a power competent to try the king of Saxony.

England, in retaking possession of the electorate of Hanover, has not acknowledged the principle of conquest; Napoleon himself protested against it when you ceded Guadaloupe to Sweden; consequently force alone has not been admitted either by you or your enemy as a legal title, authorizing the definitive disposal of a country.

In order to try the king of Saxony, it would first be necessary to find a tribunal possessing a right to sit in judgment upon him; and then to hear him before that tribunal.

We do not acknowledge the right of those who in the present case would presume to form such a tribunal, and these pretended judges refuse even to hear him whom they accuse. *The sovereign of Saxony has no other judges than the king of England—* GOD AND HIS NATION; and so long as the European family shall not be amenable to any supreme and common tribunals, so long there will be no other arbiters of kings: now that arbiter of these two, whose sentiments we are permitted to know and to interpret, has decidedly pronounced in favour of this prince, for his whole nation demands him back at your hands.

Your excellency yourself has observed to me that a sense of justice is implanted in the heart of every man. Collect in any form you please, a number of persons, of any country, and of any class; submit the question to them, and I will abide by their decision.

## II. *Question of General Interest.*

Let us now examine whether the prosperity of Prussia, the interests of Germany, or the general situation of Europe, so imperiously demand the suppression of Saxony.

You are anxious, my lord, that Prussia should be strong; but you would only weaken her by giving to her a population, which for a century to come will not forget its feelings for the ancient dynasty, and which will perpetually cherish in its bosom the

seeds of discontent and disturbance. The statesman should bear in mind that Saxony is not composed of a motley assemblage of minor states—the unjust acquisitions of past times; Saxony is what it has been for ages; its national origin is firmly founded, and this state is so much the less calculated to become a quiet and submissive *province*.

You are desirous of uniting Austria and Prussia. The transfer of Saxony to the latter would of itself suffice to divide them. The frontiers of Austria will be compromised, her military movements cramped and menaced, and the two states, brought into contact with one another, will, sooner or later, be in a situation of permanent hostility, dangerous to themselves and to the rest of Europe.

Is it your wish to divide Prussia and Russia? You will not accomplish this object. The two sovereigns are bound by personal ties, which it is not in the power of any person to break. But setting aside their private friendship, you unite their interests when you think to separate them; for Prussia will be supported by Russia in her projects of aggrandizement in Germany, she will soon find means to pass the limits which you now pretend to set her, and she will support in return the designs of Russia upon the Ottoman empire. Germany will be destroyed, the Ottoman empire overthrown, and the peace of Europe disturbed, and all this in consequence of your plan.

If you would ascertain, my lord, what is the interest of Germany, consult its wishes; for you certainly cannot suppose that the states both great and small are completely ignorant of what can save or ruin them: now all of them, *one alone excepted*, consider Germany as ruined, if Saxony be annihilated. The kind of balance of power, which your plan tends to establish, is therefore the total derangement of all balance of power; its first consequence would be a civil war in Germany, and in Europe a state of general convulsion, the effects of which England could scarcely avoid feeling.

The eyes of Germany are fixed upon England; she will submit her cause to the tribunal of a just and enlightened nation, which, averse to every act of violence, cannot sanction the sup-

pression of a people attached to the English nation by the ties of religion, arts, and commerce.

The observations which I have taken the liberty to submit to your excellency, are dictated by solicitude for the general welfare: for you are aware, my lord, that private interest would induce me to hold a very different language: but I love my country and honour, and that very friendship which binds me to Russia, Austria, and Prussia, is but an additional motive with me to oppose projects dangerous for them, and ruinous to us.

## ERNESTINE LINE OF THE HOUSE OF SAXONY.



HAVING, in the preceding pages, traced the descent of the *Albertine*, or younger branch of the House of Saxony, from the period when it supplanted the elder or *Ernestine* line, let us now return to the latter.

It will be recollected that on the deposition of John Frederic, the Magnanimous, from the electoral dignity in 1547, certain towns and districts in Thuringia, and among the rest Weimar, Jena, and Eisenach, were allotted to his family. It has also been stated that the principality of Coburg devolved to him on the death of his half-brother, John Ernest, in 1553. To these possessions were added in the following year, by the convention of Naumburg, the districts of Altenburg, Sachsenberg, Herbisleben, and Eisenberg.

## ANCIENT HOUSE OF SAXE-GOTHA.

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JOHN FREDERIC II. eldest son of John Frederic I. was the founder of the ancient House of Gotha. This prince had the misfortune to unite the ambition of recovering the dominions and dignities of which his father had been dispossessed with extreme credulity—qualities which rendered him an easy dupe to designing persons, and finally occasioned the loss of his states and his liberty. Thus we find that he was selected, in 1558, by a female adventurer who pretended to be his aunt, Anne of Cleves, the divorced wife of Henry VIII. of England, as a fit subject for her impositions. She pretended that the report of the death of the princess, whom she personated, was false, that she had escaped to the continent with prodigious wealth in money and jewels, among which were the crown jewels of England, a great part of which treasures she promised to the duke and his brothers. After she had thus amused him for a year and half, the accounts which reached him from various quarters, excited suspicion; the pretended queen underwent various examinations, in each of which she told a different story respecting her origin and circum-



stances. At length she was led to the scaffold as if for execution, and there solemnly declared that she was an illegitimate daughter of the duke of Cleves. The family of the latter, however, denied all knowledge of the fact, and one John von Froemont, in a letter to the senate of Nürnberg, whom she had solicited to take charge of part of her treasures, says, that after great trouble, she was at length brought to confess that she was the daughter of a count, and had been waiting-woman to queen Anne, whose seal and other valuables, she had contrived to secure after her death : that moreover, she had been mistress to Henry VIII. and the principal cause of his separation from the queen. She was doomed to solitary imprisonment ; but whether death released her from it, or she was set at liberty after the deposition of John Frederic, is not known.

With equal facility did this unfortunate prince grant his protection to William von Grumbach, a Franconian nobleman, who had instigated the margrave of Brandenburg to attack his liege lord the bishop of Würzburg. The bishop had in consequence sequestered his estates, upon which Grumbach caused him to be assassinated. Being accused of this crime by the successor of that prelate, he collected a band of adventurers, surprised Würzburg in the night, plundered the city, and compelled the chapter to sign an engagement to restore his estates and to pay him a considerable sum of

money within a stipulated time. For these proceedings he was put to the ban of the empire as a robber and disturber of the public peace. In this situation Grumbach and his companions sought the protection of the duke of Gotha. They filled his mind with the most absurd notions, and set before him the flattering prospect of recovering, through their means, the honours and possessions enjoyed by his father: assuring him that his pretensions would infallibly be seconded by the Protestants of England and France. In spite of the commands of the emperor and the admonitions of princes related to him by blood, to withdraw his countenance from these obnoxious characters, the duke persisted in harbouring them, upon which he was himself put to the ban. The execution of this sentence was intrusted to Augustus elector of Saxony, who, at the latter end of the year 1566, entered the country with an army, and laid siege to Gotha. The city was obliged to capitulate on the 13th of April, 1567, on which day, exactly twenty years before, the duke's father lost his liberty in the battle of Mühlberg. Among the prisoners exempted from pardon was a visionary, named Hänsel Tausendschön, otherwise Hans Müller, a native of Sundhausen near Gotha. This man asserted that he had seen and conversed with angels, who informed him, that in a neighbour's garden in his village was concealed a prodigious treasure in pure gold, which had been

deposited there by an emperor, and was destined for none but the duke and himself. These angels were four in number, who paid him frequent visits; but only one of them spoke to him, and this one had often said, that the duke should recover his father's electorate, and that the above-mentioned treasure should be dug up before the ensuing Whitsuntide. This fanatic stedfastly maintained the truth of his story even when put to the torture; adding that the angels came out of a hole in the cellar and retired into it again; that he once accompanied them by their desire, and there saw his grandfather and great-grandfather. The angels, he said, were about the size of boys three years old, wore ash-coloured garments, had black hats on their heads, white staves in their hands, and shrill voices just like those of young children.

On the 18th of April, Grumbach, and some of his associates, were executed in the market-place of Gotha. Being disabled from walking, by the gout, he was carried in a chair to the block, where he was greeted on his arrival by eight trumpeters. He sat about a quarter of an hour upon the block, conversing with the ecclesiastics, who, as he declared that he wished to die like a good Christian, administered to him the consolations of religion. He was then stripped, extended upon the block, nailed down, and quartered alive. The executioner first cut out his heart and smote him with it in the face, saying,

“Behold thy false heart, Grumbach!” Brück, who had been chancellor to the duke of Gotha, was the next that suffered. He was led forth in a long black cloak, with crape round his hat, saluted with the sound of trumpets, and quartered like Grumbach. David Baumgärtner, a Swabian baron, who had fled from his own country on account of debt, and joined Grumbach’s troop, was beheaded. On the surrender of the city, this man might easily have escaped, had he not thought fit, at this unseasonable time, to parade the streets on a spirited horse, and wearing a hat adorned with feathers. His appearance induced the elector to inquire who he was, and having learned his name, he ordered him to be detained and secured. Another of the prisoners was beheaded, and a fifth hanged. Colonel Brandenstein, who had been commandant of the fortress of Grimmenstein, was conducted to the scaffold with the same ceremonies as the others, but reprieved. On the 26th, however, he was beheaded, and the same day Tausendschön, the visionary, was hanged. The scaffold erected for this occasion, after being taken down, was sold to a peasant, who made a dwelling-room out of it. “This man,” says Müller, in his *Annals*, “could not have been either very squeamish or very timid.”

The duke John Frederic was delivered up to the imperial commissioners, conveyed to Austria, and doomed to perpetual imprisonment at Neustadt. Here his noble consort, when her two sons had at-

tained such an age as no longer to need her care; rejoined her unfortunate husband, and afforded to posterity a rare example of conjugal affection, by sharing with him the hardships of captivity till her death. He soon followed her to the grave in 1595, after a confinement of 28 years.

Though the possessions of this unfortunate prince were originally promised to his brother John William, yet at the diet of Spire, in 1570, they were restored to the sons of the deposed duke, John Casimir and John Ernest, who afterwards agreed to divide them with their uncle. By this partition the latter obtained Weimar, and the young princes Coburg.

JOHN CASIMIR and his brother were, during their minority, under the guardianship of their uncle John William and Augustus elector of Saxony. At the court of Augustus, at Dresden, John Casimir distinguished himself by his dexterity and address in tilting, hunting, and shooting at a mark. Here he conceived a passion for Anna, the youngest daughter of the elector. The princess and her father favoured his suit, and in 1586, the nuptials were consummated with extraordinary festivities. Soon afterwards he removed with his bride to his own capital, Coburg.

The duke spent much of his time abroad with his neighbours, in hunting, shooting, and convivial parties, in which he took great delight, regardless of the solitary condition of his youthful wife. She felt it however the more severely, and in the very first

year of their union, complained in her letters to her husband of his long and frequent absences, but with the strongest assurances of her tenderest affection. From some of these letters, which are still extant, it may be perceived that the princess, as was very natural at the age of nineteen, felt some disappointment in the privation of the society of the duke, and her love for him gradually abated.

Jeronimo Scotto, a wily Italian, who called himself a count, and whom his cotemporaries styled a conjuror, had quitted his native country to try his fortune in Germany. He was an adept in many arts and in sleight of hand; could tell people their thoughts, give entertainments without any preparation and as it were by the agency of obsequious spirits, cast nativities, and was conversant in astronomy and alchemy—qualifications which in those times conferred great reputation and consequence. Thus accomplished, he appeared in 1579 at Cologne, where he was well received by the elector Gebhard. He entertained him with his tricks, made a parade of his knowledge and pretensions, and artfully turned the conversation to the beautiful females whom the negotiations for peace had then assembled at Cologne. The elector, who was pleased with the subject, asked Scotto if he could procure him a sight of the most beautiful of these ladies. The conjuror joyfully replied in the affirmative, and shewed him in a mirror the charming Agnes of

Mannsfeld, with whom the elector formed an acquaintance by means of his cunning agent. She at length prevailed upon him, notwithstanding his ecclesiastical profession, to marry her, plunged him into quarrels and wars, and ultimately occasioned his deposition and ruin.

Scotto, after a variety of adventures, became known to John Casimir, and in 1592 was settled at Coburg. The duke was a great lover of secret arts and sciences, and expended considerable sums in the acquisition of them. Many Italians like Scotto were at this time spread over the continent, and distinguished themselves by their success in all sorts of tricks, in gambling, and with the fair sex. They dug for treasures, summoned spirits, and contrived to dupe both high and low, and to fleece them of their money. John Casimir was acquainted with several of these empirics, and at last fate, in an evil hour for himself and his consort, introduced to him Jeronimo Scotto.

This adventurer soon discovered the weak side of his hosts, and contrived to insinuate himself so completely into the confidence of the duke and duchess, that the infatuated pair resigned themselves implicitly to his directions. While he promised to initiate the former into the most mysterious arcana of science, he deceived the latter with his tricks, and with the assurance that he would remove the impe-

diments to her becoming a mother. This had ever been the object of her fondest wishes, which hope pictured as the most effectual means of fixing the heart of her husband. The universal superstition of her age, inspired her with confidence towards Scotto, who abused her weakness, and fearing a discovery, found means to contract a tender intimacy between her and a young and amiable man, Ulrich von Lichtenstein, a gentleman of the duke's court. He then left Coburg, carrying with him part of her jewels, which she had placed in his hands to sell for her, but with a promise to return and share with her the brilliant fortunes that awaited him.

The mutual passion of the duchess and Lichtenstein was too strong to admit of disguise : they betrayed it themselves. The suspicions of the duke were awakened ; he discovered the secret, and resolved to launch upon the lovers the utmost weight of a husband's indignation. He caused them to be apprehended, and appointed a particular commission to inquire into the affair. The duchess, in letters to her husband and some of her relations, acknowledged her guilt. The former she implored not to doom her, a poor forlorn orphan, and young as she was, to a prison. She represented that she had no wish to retain the state and honours which she had hitherto enjoyed, and intreated him to consider her as his menial servant, but not to put her quite away



from him. She farther begged him to spare the life of Lichtenstein, otherwise his blood would be upon her head.

A relation of the duke's advised him to pardon his wife, but her own family refused to receive her. At her examination she voluntarily made the following confession:—"that she had had many conversations with Scotto, who, among other things, had promised to put her into the way to become a mother. She had accordingly gone to his apartment, where he took her hand and laid it upon a cross cut out of pasteboard, marked with various characters and covered with wire. He then pronounced some words, all of which were unintelligible to her except the blessed Trinity. Upon this the wire twisted itself round her fingers. In this helpless situation, he took advantage of her weakness, and prevailed upon her to violate her duty, and to continue to allow him those privileges which were the exclusive right of her lord. He likewise obliged her to swear that on his return she would accompany him to Italy. Scotto then told her that she would die before her husband, and have to encounter great hardships: but if she would wish her husband to die first, all should go well with her. To this however she would not consent.—He afterwards introduced to her Ulrich von Lichtenstein, to whom she had completely surrendered her person. "All these circumstances she con-

fessed with tears, intreating that her husband would attribute every thing to her inexperience, and forgive her on account of her youth; as it was the villain Scotto who had deluded and plunged her into ruin.

The tribunal at Jena adjudged both delinquents to be beheaded, which sentence the duke mitigated to perpetual imprisonment. The duchess was confined first at Eisenach, afterwards in the convent of Sonnenfeld, and lastly in the fortress of Coburg, where she died in 1613. Lichtenstein, whose prison was a tower in the church-yard at Coburg, survived till 1633.

The duchess had languished six years in confinement, when John Casimir took for his second wife Margaret, a princess of Brunswick. The following fact will serve to illustrate the sentiments of this prince. In derision of his repudiated wife, he caused a medal to be struck, upon which on the obverse he is represented kissing his new bride, with an inscription to this effect: *How lovingly these two kiss!* On the reverse is seen the unhappy Anna in the monastic habit, with these words: *Who will kiss me, miserable nun?* These inscriptions form in the original language the following distich:

Wie küßten sich die zwey so fein!  
Wer küsst mich, armes Nonnelein?

—This medal, and a print of a similar kind, with the

same inscription, were the messengers employed with unmanly triumph by the duke, to announce his second marriage to the wretched prisoner, and to revenge her infidelity. In general he was fond of equivokes upon his coins, as well as upon the marks which he used to fire at, a whole collection of which are still preserved in the ducal library at Gotha.

John Casimir, to whom Coburg is indebted for the foundation of its academy called the *Gymnasium*, died without issue in 1633.

The following circumstances will serve to demonstrate the spirit of infernal barbarity in which the military operations of the thirty years' war in Germany were conducted.—In 1622 the quota of troops furnished by Coburg was employed under the command of a Swedish officer in the siege of Cronach. In a sally made by the townsmen, two of the latter being taken prisoners after a very obstinate resistance, were stripped naked, and their skin cut piece-meal from their bodies. In this state they are said to have been sent back to the town, carrying their skin in their hands. The people of Cronach, however, retaliated on the Coburgers by fleaing four of their prisoners alive, from the neck to the soles of the feet.

JOHN ERNEST, to whom Eisenach had been previously allotted, succeeded his brother, whom he survived but a year, and dying likewise without

issue in 1634, his possessions reverted to the line of Weimar.

In the last-mentioned year, colonel Zehm was commandant of the fortress of Coburg. This officer, we are told, was tormented by the devil in the figure of his wife, though the lady was still living, to such a degree, that when he sat down to table, the spirit would enter the room in his wife's form, so that the poor man was completely puzzled to distinguish which was his real helpmate.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-WEIMAR.



JOHN WILLIAM who founded this line was the second son of the unfortunate elector, John Frederic the Magnanimous, and brother to the still more unfortunate John Frederic II. This prince, soon after the accession of queen Elizabeth to the English throne, presented himself as a suitor for her hand, but on being refused by her, married a daughter of the elector-palatine. After the deposition of his brother, in 1567, he at first governed his states alone, but in 1572, ceded a considerable portion of them to his nephews. He died in 1573. His son Frederic William was founder of the line of Altenburg, and John continued the line of Weimar. The former became extinct in 1672, on which the possessions of that house, ought, according to the strict rules of lineal descent, to have devolved in equal portions to the two principal branches of the Ernestine line, those of Weimar and Gotha; but the latter obtained the chief part, and the former only a small portion.

JOHN, the immediate ancestor of all the reigning houses of Saxony of the Ernestine line, died in 1605

in his 36th year. By his consort, Dorothea Maria, daughter of prince Joachim Ernest, of Anhalt, he had eleven sons, eight of whom survived him.

*Dorothea Maria* was a warm patroness of the arts and sciences. She herself and her sister learned Latin and Hebrew, a few years before she died, of Wolfgang Ratichius, an eminent linguist, who had then recently invented a new method of instruction. By her will she bequeathed 20,000 florins for the purpose of making a better provision for the professors of the university of Jena. The death of this princess was accelerated by an accident. Riding with some attendants near the river Ilm, she thought she perceived a poor man or woman sitting on the bank. She therefore felt for her purse, but at this moment her horse began to plunge, and at last leaped with her into the river. The duchess was carried fifty paces down the stream, before any of her attendants could come up to her assistance; but she had presence of mind, and strength sufficient to keep herself above water, till one of her retinue swam to her and brought her safely out of the river. She had sustained no bodily injury, but a cold and the fright consequent on the accident terminated her life twelve days afterwards, in 1617. All the cotemporary accounts relate that the cause of this catastrophe was not a human being, but a spectre, which frightened the horse, and this assertion was repeated in a Latin

inscription upon a monument erected on the spot to commemorate the event.

JOHN ERNEST the younger, died in Hungary, in 1628.

WILLIAM succeeded his brother. During the reign of this prince, in consequence of the ravages of the thirty years' war, Jena was afflicted, in the spring of 1630, with such a famine, that many persons, unable to procure even oat-bread, were obliged to subsist upon wild roots. Numbers died of famine, in their houses and upon the high-roads. In May the dearth was so great that the people had recourse to grass and leaves to appease their hunger, and wherever the carcass of any animal was thrown away, the poor fell upon and devoured it.

In 1639, the possessions of Eisenach and Coburg devolved to the houses of Weimar and Altenburg, and in the following year, William divided these as well as the patrimonial dominions, with his two surviving brothers, Albert and Ernest. Weimar fell to his own share; Albert obtained Eisenach, and Ernest Gotha. Albert, however, died without issue, on which his portion was divided between the other two.

*Bernard*, the youngest brother of these princes, was one of the most distinguished military commanders of his age, and from his achievements was surnamed the *Great*. In thirty-four engagements

victory crowned his efforts, and proved inconstant to him on one occasion only.

In the famous battle of Lützen, in which the Protestant religion lost its greatest champion, Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, Bernard, who commanded the left wing, on learning the death of the king, put himself at the head of the army, and cheered the troops in these words,—“ Swedes, Fins, and Germans! your and our champion of liberty is fallen! To me life is not life, unless I revenge his death. Charge the enemy bravely, and prove that ye loved the king. Follow me, and fight like honourable and gallant soldiers. God with us!” The personal valour of Bernard, who was wounded, and his brother, duke Ernest, materially contributed to the success of that glorious day.

In 1633, during the operations on the Danube, where the enemy had destroyed the bridge of Deckendorf, the duke determined to cross the river in a small boat. The boatman who conducted it, ran it in his fright against one of the piers of the bridge with such violence, that all on board had well nigh gone to the bottom. “ Friend!” cried the undaunted prince, “ be not afraid, put thy trust in God, he will not forsake us!” The vessel reached the shore without farther accident.

In 1634, the city of Nördlingen, in Swabia, being besieged by the imperial army, and reduced



to the utmost extremity by famine ; Bernard, unable to withstand the feelings of his heart, determined to attempt the relief of the place. " I promised them succour," said the hero ; " and I will keep my word." Some of his generals would have dissuaded him from an engagement ; but he overruled their objections, gave battle, and was for once defeated. His army consisting of 30,000 Germans and Swedes, was opposed to 70,000 Austrians, Italians, and Spaniards, who were thrice as strong as their adversaries in cavalry and artillery.

The Protestant princes soon afterwards formed an alliance with France, and the duke being at Paris, was asked by one of the courtiers, *Comment fîtes vous pour perdre la bataille ?* The duke drily replied, *Je vous le dirai, Monsieur ; je croyois la gagner et je la perdis*—then turning sharply round, he inquired, *Qui est le sot qui me fait cette question ?*

On another occasion father Joseph, the confidant of cardinal Richelieu, was talking to the duke about the future operations of the war, and pointing out to him, upon a map, the towns which ought to be taken. Bernard listened to the friar a long time with the utmost patience, and then interrupted him with this observation : *Cela serait bon, Monsieur Joseph, si l'on prenoit les villes avec les bouts des doigts.*

The duke treated the king himself in the same blunt manner. As he was not a reigning sovereign,

Lewis XIII. required of him a great deal of respect. When therefore Bernard was admitted to an audience of his majesty, he was not offered a seat, and it was intimated to him that he was expected to be uncovered. Bernard, however, kept his hat on, and reached himself a chair. Upon this the king was retiring, but Richelieu called him back, and the duke gave his majesty to understand that he was not to consider him as an officer, but as an ally. The audience then took place, and Bernard afterwards won the high esteem of the royal family. He refused the staff of a marshal of France, as well as the hand of the duchess d'Aiguillon, a relative of cardinal Richelieu, because he thought her an unsuitable match for a prince of the elder branch of the house of Saxony.

In 1636, during the siege of Alsace, he received so severe a wound in the fore-finger of his left hand that he was obliged to suffer amputation. This finger is still preserved at Weimar. In 1638, he reduced the strong fortress of Breisach, after an obstinate siege. The possession of this place was eagerly coveted by France. Marshal Guebriant, who enjoyed the confidence of the duke, was therefore commissioned to negotiate with him for the cession of it to the king, who promised that in return he would enforce the claims of Bernard and his house to Thuringia and Saxony. The marshal harangued him on the subject in a long speech, to

which the duke laconically replied : *C'est demander à une fille son pucelage, et à un homme de bien son honneur.*

This answer was, perhaps, the cause of his premature death ; for France found that it was the intention of this prince to form a frontier power in Germany to counteract the ambitious views of the court of Paris. From this time his destruction was determined upon. Twice did his constitution triumph over the murderous attempts of his enemies ; but a third time they proved more successful. He expired at Neuburg, on the 8th of July, 1639, after a most painful illness of five days, occasioned by poison, as was ascertained when his body was opened.

The correspondence of this prince with the imperial and other courts, and with various generals both of the Swedish and the hostile party, between the years 1635 and 1638, is preserved in the ducal library at Gotha, in fifteen thick folio volumes.

JOHN ERNEST, succeeded his father, duke William, in the principality of Weimar, in 1662. His brother, Adolphus William, established himself at Eisenach ; John George at Marksuhl, and Bernard at Jena. In 1671, the line of Eisenach became extinct, by the death of the young prince William Augustus, on which John George removed from Marksuhl to Eisenach. Thus three different lines were founded in 1652, at Weimar, Eisenach, and Jena.

In the same year the principalities of Altenburg and Coburg, devolved to the houses of Weimar and Gotha. John Ernest died in 1683.

WILLIAM ERNEST and his brother JOHN ERNEST reigned jointly till the death of the latter in 1707. His son, ERNEST AUGUSTUS, was then associated in the government with the former till his death, in 1728.

The cabinets of coins and curiosities, and the library at Weimar, were founded by William Ernest in 1700, and the *Gymnasium illustre* of the same city in 1714.

On the failure of issue male of the line of Jena, in 1690, its possessions were divided between Weimar and Eisenach.

ERNEST AUGUSTUS alone, d. 1748.

During his reign in 1741, the line of Eisenach became extinct, and that principality was reunited with Weimar.

ERNEST AUGUSTUS CONSTANTINE, married in 1756 Anna Amelia, daughter of Charles duke of Brunswick Wölffenbüttel, and died in 1758. After his decease, the regency was vested in his widow as guardian of the present duke till 1775. The patronage bestowed by this princess on learning and science, have endeared her memory to the people of Weimar. Her enlightened encouragement and the patronage of her son collected round the court a galaxy of genius, in which the names of a Wieland,

Schiller, Herder, and Göthe, shine with resplendent lustre, and have caused this little capital to be characterized as the Athens of Germany.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS, the reigning prince, born September 3, 1757, succeeded his father, May 28, 1758, married October 3, 1775, *Louisa*, daughter of Louis IX. landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt. Their children are :

*Charles Frederic*, hereditary prince, born 1783, married, in 1804, Maria Paulowna, daughter of Paul I. and sister of the emperor Alexander of Russia.

*Carolina Louisa*, born 1786, married in 1810, to Lewis, hereditary prince of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

*Charles Bernard*, born 1792.

By the treaty signed in Congress at Vienna, in 1815, the title of *Grand-duke* is conferred on the reigning prince of the house of Weimar, with such an addition to his territories as shall comprise a population of 50,000 souls.

## MODERN HOUSE OF SAXE-GOTHA.

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ERNEST, surnamed the *Pious*, the founder of this house, was the ninth son of John, duke of Weimar. On his accession to the government, in 1640, he found his country desolated by a long and bloody war, and the people plunged into the grossest ignorance, from the total neglect of all instruction, moral and religious. His first care was, therefore, to reform the church, and to establish schools for the education of the lower classes. He ordered under severe penalties, that all persons should send their children to these schools, as soon as they were five years of age; and such was the success of his regulations, that it became a common saying that "the boors of Thuringia were better educated than the gentry of other countries." By his command Seckendorf undertook his voluminous and valuable *History of Lutheranism*; for which the duke supplied him with manuscript materials and documents. This work, which is written in Latin, furnishes a complete history of the rise and progress of the Reformation in all the countries of Europe. Ernest likewise formed the plan and defrayed the ex-

pense of publishing the Bible with notes, composed by as many able Protestant writers as there are books in the Old and New Testament, which has always been held in high esteem, under the denomination of the *Weimar Bible*.

The duke was particularly solicitous that the cures and schools should be supplied with ministers and masters properly qualified for those situations. He always carried about with him a list of both, and would visit them familiarly in his journies. One day, in passing through a village, he entered the minister's house, inspected his library, and perceiving his Bible covered with dust, he put a gold ducat at the beginning of the book of Revelations, unobserved by the divine. The following year, he paid another visit to the same priest, and inquired concerning his method of reading the sacred volume. The minister told his highness that it was his practice to read over the whole Bible once in every four months, together with the critical observations; and that he spent some hours every day in the study of a particular book, and in perusing the best commentators who had written upon that book. His highness then took up the Bible, opened it, and to the no small confusion of the clerical hypocrite, found the ducat where he had laid it the preceding year.

All persons who held offices of trust under this prince were annually examined by himself, and if

any of them was found to have wilfully violated his duty, he directed the 101st Psalm to be read to the offender in his presence, and discharged him from his service. Hence originated the proverb applied to unfaithful stewards:—"The prince's psalm will be read to you."

He frequently repeated these words:—"Princes are formed of earth, rule on earth, and return to earth."

In 1645 the possessions of the house of Gotha were enlarged with part of Eisenach, and in 1672, with the principal portion of the territories of the line of Altenburg.

By the duchess Elizabeth Sophia, only daughter of John Philip duke of Altenburg, Ernest became the father of eighteen children, of whom seven sons survived him. He died in 1675.

FREDERIC I. eldest son of Ernest, divided the paternal dominions with his brothers Albert, Bernard, Henry, Christian, and John Ernest, upon which the house of Gotha was divided into various lines, which were called after their places of residence. In this partition Frederic retained Gotha. To prevent the farther dismemberment of his dominions, he introduced the law of primogeniture, by which the eldest son enjoys the whole estate on making suitable provision for the younger branches of the family. He assisted in person with his brother Ernest duke of Saxe-Hildburghausen, in re-



lieving Vienna when besieged by the Turks, in 1683.

**FREDERIC II.** succeeded his father in 1691, and died in 1732. By the princess Magdalena Augusta, of Anhalt Zerbst, he had eighteen children, of whom **Augusta**, was married, in 1736, to **Frederic Lewis**, prince of Wales, by whom she became the mother of the present venerable and beloved sovereign of the British empire.

*John William*, brother to this prince, was distinguished for his military talents. In 1696, he served in the allied army under king William III. in Flanders, as adjutant-general to his majesty. He afterwards entered into the Swedish service, was in the early campaigns of Charles XII. and subsequently signalized himself in Italy, under prince Eugene of Savoy. He was killed by a musket-shot during the siege of Toulon, in 1707.

**FREDERIC III.** died 1772.

**ERNEST II.** died 1804.

**AUGUSTUS**, the reigning duke of Gotha and Altenburg, born November 23, 1772; succeeded his father in 1804. He married, firstly, in 1797,

*Louisa*, daughter of Frederic Francis, duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, who died in 1801; and, secondly, in 1802, *Caroline Amelia*, daughter of William, elector of Hesse. By his first consort he has one daughter.

*Dorothea Louisa*, born December 21, 1800.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-COBURG.



In the division of the dominions of Ernest the Pious, Coburg fell to the share of his second son, ALBERT, at whose death, without issue, in 1697, the possession of this principality was long a subject of dispute between the houses of Gotha, Meinungen, Hildburghausen, and Saalfeld. This contention was not finally adjusted till 1735, when the town and district of Coburg were adjudged to the house of Saalfeld, and Sonneberg and Neuhaus to Meinungen.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-MEINUNGEN.



**BERNARD**, third son of Ernest the Pious, obtained this portion of the paternal possessions.

**ERNEST LEWIS**, succeeded his father in 1706, and died in 1724. His brothers,

**FREDERIC WILLIAM** and **ANTHONY ULRICH**, reigned conjointly till the death of the former, in 1746. The government was then vested in Anthony Ulrich alone till his decease in 1763.

**GEORGE FREDERIC CHARLES**, died in 1803.

**BERNARD ERIC FREUND**, the reigning duke, born December 17, 1800, succeeded his father, December 24, 1803, under the guardianship of his mother.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-ROMHILD.



HENRY, fourth son of Ernest the Pious, had Römhild allotted for his portion. On his death, in 1710, without issue, the district of Römhild was possessed in common by the houses of Meinungen and Saalfeld.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-EISENBERG.



CHRISTIAN, fifth son of Ernest the Pious, obtained certain districts of Altenburg, and fixed his residence at Eisenberg. This prince was a man of an honourable upright mind, and a tolerable proficient in languages and sciences. In the solitary leisure left him by the concerns of his little state, he fell, however, into the reveries of the alchemists, and fancied that he saw gold and spirits where neither was to be seen. At that time, and for some centuries before, it was a mania common among princes to strive to increase their wealth and importance by the practice of the art of making gold, and if they could produce medals of what was termed chemical gold, their happiness was complete.

Our Henry IV. exhorted all his subjects, in four proclamations, to apply themselves with the utmost diligence, to the discovery of the philosophers' stone, that by such means the nation might be relieved from its debts. He encouraged the clergy in particular to this pursuit by the representation, "that as they were so fortunate as to transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, it would be very easy for them to convert a base metal into one

of nobler quality." No sovereign was more strongly addicted to alchemy, than the emperor Rodolph II.; he was wholly absorbed in it, and therefore invited to his court the oracle of the art, the celebrated Sendivog, to assist him in his operations. The emperor Leopold I. had also many of these artists about him. Augustus elector of Saxony, as we have already seen, was reputed to have made greater proficiency in alchemy, than any of these princes. Margrave John, of Brandenburg, received from his favourite study the surname of the *Alchemist*, and he was prouder of this title than of the electoral dignity. Duke Frederic V. of Wirtemberg, duke Francis II. of Saxe-Lauenburg, margrave Frederic Ernest of Culmbach, and prince Augustus of Anhalt, are also recorded to have been successful alchemists. Prudent statesmen, nevertheless, exerted their efforts to check this folly, and one of them emphatically says :—" I never yet saw a state which could declare with truth that it had grown rich by means of alchemy. May God divert the minds and understandings of all princes from such vanities and absurdities !"

These warnings rung in the ears of duke Christian, without producing any other effect upon him than perhaps to excite his pity for the ignorance of those by whom they were given. He constructed a complete laboratory for his favourite pursuit, was in correspondence with the most eminent alchemists

of his time, and was known to the adepts in England as well as in Germany, by the name of Theophilus, abbot of the Blessed Virgin of Lausnitz. The dupe of many a swindler, he at length contracted debts, which he was never able to discharge. He consoled himself with the notion that spirits would infallibly relieve him from his embarrassments, even when he was necessitated to reduce his establishment, and had but few resources to supply the means of living like a prince.—A journal, in the duke's hand-writing, relative to his intercourse with five supposed spirits, and the magnificent promises made by them, is a singular monument of human credulity. It embraces the period between April, 1696, and March, 1706. It appears that the sum promised him by the spirits, during this time, if he would have patience, exceeded five millions of dollars in ready money, besides bullion and jewels to ten times that amount. The journal contains, moreover, a minute statement of the purposes to which the duke intended to apply these treasures ; an estimate of the value of the diamonds and precious stones, and a "calculation of the prodigious power and energy both of the red and white multiplied and fermented tincture," reduced with incredible pains and patience into tables—an operation which alone might suffice to turn the brain of an ordinary person.

If the supposed appearances of the spirits which conversed with the duke, and made him such profuse

promises, were mere illusions of the imagination, they must have been more lively than any of which I can form a conception ; if not, they may have been comedies that were acted with the deluded alchemist. It seems more than probable that a madame von Unruhe, a confidante of the duke, who is frequently mentioned in his journal, performed an important part in these transactions, and that the spirit called Job was a worthy assistant. To some such agency may also be ascribed the following adventure.

In 1705, the duke was reclined on a couch in his cabinet, meditating on his mystical concerns, when he heard a knock at his door. He was at a loss to imagine how any person could have come thus far, unobserved by his guard and attendants, and without being announced. He nevertheless cried : " Come in ! " and a female in the old-fashioned dress of a princess entered the apartment. A chill came over the duke, but mustering his spirits and having convinced himself that he was awake, he questioned the visitor as to her name and errand.

" Be not afraid," mildly replied the lady ; " I am not an evil spirit. No harm shall befall you. I am Anna, a princess of your family ; the unfortunate wife of duke John Casimir\*." You know my history?

" I do," answered the duke ; " but what now disturbs your rest, and brings you back into the world ? "

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\* For the story of this princess, see p. 125—131. •



"I have something to request of you. I died without being reconciled to my husband. God in his justice has appointed a certain term for our reconciliation, and that term approaches. You are chosen to accomplish our re-union. Though I am happy, I am not yet admitted before the throne of God, but have hitherto resided in a retired place of agreeable repose: whereas my inexorable husband still hovers between time and eternity, in darkness and cold, but not without hopes of happiness."

"But how is it possible that — —."

"Believe my words. What I tell you is truth. How many things are there which the human understanding cannot comprehend, and which nevertheless exist! Experience will be your teacher yonder, where we all see, feel, and believe, what here never entered into our limited conceptions."

The duke was struck dumb, and the spirit thus proceeded:

"We are rejoiced to find you chosen to be the instrument of our reconciliation. Thank God with us that he has been pleased to appoint you such.— I give you eight days to consider of the matter. I shall then return at this hour to learn your determination. God be with you!"

The spirit vanished, leaving the duke absorbed in meditation on what he had seen and heard. He resolved to consult Christian Hofkunz, a celebrated divine of Torgau, afterwards confessor to the queen

of Poland, how to proceed in this affair. Hofkunz, with all his casuistry, was not a little embarrassed. At length he wrote to the duke, that "if there was nothing superstitious in the business of the reconciliation, he might undertake it; but he ought first to examine whether he had courage sufficient, and duly prepare himself by prayer for the important duty."

The appointed time arrived, and the duchess again made her appearance. She saluted the duke, and asked if he were willing to comply with her request. He answered that he would, provided nothing superstitious or contrary to the word of God were required of him.

"Nothing of the kind is required," said the duchess. "You are acquainted with my history?"

"I am."

"My husband dealt hardly by me. In vain did I solicit his forgiveness on my death-bed: he remained unmoved. In order therefore that we may both become happy, and be admitted to the divine presence, we wish to be reconciled. I have already informed you where we are at present. These abodes we are now to leave, with the permission of the Almighty, who has selected you to promote this good work."

"What am I to do? and how am I implicated in this matter?"

"Be ready to-morrow night to receive my husband and me: for I alone have power to come

in the day-time, but not my husband. We will intreat you to be the umpire between us, to join our hands in token of reconciliation, to pronounce upon us the blessing of the Lord, and then to praise him along with us."

The duke promised to comply, and the lady disappeared. His Highness then prepared to give a fit reception to his expected guests. He ordered wax candles to be lighted and placed upon a table between the bible and prayer-book, doubled the guards at the door of his apartments, gave himself up to spiritual meditations, prayed and awaited the time with firmness, though not with perfect composure. Precisely at eleven, the duchess entered, lively and friendly as ever, and stated her case to the duke. After her came her husband, gloomy and pale, and delivered what he had to say, in a harsh and unkind manner. "Now decide," exclaimed the duchess, "thou, in whom we place our confidence, beloved descendant of our race!"

Christian, influenced perhaps rather by gallantry, pity for the souls that had not yet attained repose, love of peace, and a desire to extricate himself from the affair, than by any other reasons, decided that duke Casimir was in the wrong, and exhorted him to be reconciled with his beautiful consort. "Thou hast spoken wisely and justly," said the spirit. "I am reconciled with my wife."

The duke then joined his ice-cold hand to the

warm soft hand of the princess, and pronounced a benediction over them. Both said "Amen!" and the duchess kindly added: "Receive our thanks." Upon this the duke began to sing the *Te Deum laudamus*, in which he was accompanied by both his guests. When they had finished, the princess addressed him in these words:—"Your reward for this your love and goodness, you will receive from God, and soon be with us." The spirits then disappeared, and left the duke overpowered by feelings of awe, which the promised reward could not fail to excite. The guards, according to their report, heard no part of this conversation, except what was said by the duke, neither did they see the apparitions. Christian acquainted his adviser Hofkunz, with all the circumstances, and began to prepare for his end, which happened about two years afterwards. His chemical operations in his laboratory, to which he almost entirely confined himself, had destroyed his health, and he expired at the age of 57 years, totally exhausted and worn down to a shadow. Dying without issue, the whole of his possessions devolved to the house of Gotha.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-HILDBURGHAUSEN.



ERNEST, sixth son of Ernest the Pious, obtained in the partition of the dominions of that prince the town of Hildburghausen, and some other districts, to which he afterwards added part of the possessions of the extinct house of Coburg.

ERNEST FREDERIC I., succeeded his father in 1715, and died in 1724.

ERNEST FREDERIC II. d. 1745.

ERNEST FREDERIC III., d. 1780. His first wife was Louisa, daughter of Christian VI., king of Denmark. He married secondly, the daughter of Frederic Christian, margrave of Brandenburg Bayreuth; and thirdly, a daughter of Ernest Augustus, duke of Saxe-Weimar.

FREDERIC, the reigning duke, born April 29, 1763, succeeded his father, Sept. 23, 1780, and married in 1785, *Charlotte Georgina Louisa Frederica*, daughter of Charles Louis Frederic, duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and niece to the queen of Great Britain. By this princess he has issue

*Catherine Charlotte Georgina*, born June 17, 1787, married in 1805 to prince Paul, second son of the king of Wirtemberg.

*Joseph George Frederic*, hereditary prince, born Aug. 27, 1780.

*Theresa Charlotte Louisa*, born 1792, and married in 1810, to Charles Lewis, prince-royal of Bavaria.

*Charlotte Louisa Frederica*, born 1794, married in 1813, to the reigning prince of Nassau-Weilburg.

*George Charles Frederic*, born 1796.

*Frederic William Charles Joseph*, born 1801.

*Edward William Christian*, born 1804.

## HOUSE OF SAXE-COBURG-SAALFELD.



JOHN ERNEST, seventh son of Ernest the Pious, was the founder of this house, originally called Saxe-Saalfeld, till, upon obtaining the principality of Coburg, it assumed the above title.

CHRISTIAN ERNEST and FRANCIS JOSIAS, governed jointly after the death of their father in 1729, till the decease of Christian Ernest, in 1757, left his brother the sole possessor. He died in 1764.

ERNEST FREDERIC, d. 1800.

FRANCIS FREDERIC ANTHONY, married firstly, in 1776, Ernestina Frederica Sophia, daughter of duke Ernest Frederic Charles, of Saxe-Hildburghausen, who died in the same year; and secondly in 1777, Augusta Carolina Sophia, daughter of count Henry XXIV. Reuss of Ebersdorf, by whom he had issue:

ERNEST ANTHONY CHARLES LEWIS, the reigning duke, born Jan. 2, 1784, succeeded his father, Dec. 3, 1806.

His brothers and sisters are;—

*Sophia Frederica Carolina Louisa*, born Aug. 18,

1778, and married in 1804 to count Mensdorf, a colonel in the Austrian service.

*Antoinetta Ernestina Amelia*, born Aug 19, 1779, married in 1798 to Charles Alexander Frederic, brother to the king of Wirtemberg, a general in the Russian service, and governor of Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland.

*Juliana Henrietta Ulrica*, born Sept. 23, 1781, married in 1796 to the grand-duke Constantine of Russia, when she assumed the name of Anne Feodorowna.

*Ferdinand George Augustus*, born March 28, 1785.

*Maria Louisa Victoria*, born Aug. 17, 1786, married in 1803 to prince Emich Charles, of Leiningen, by whom she has been left a widow.

LEOPOLD GEORGE CHRISTIAN FREDERIC, born Dec. 16, 1790, married May 2, 1816, to her Royal Highness the Princess CHARLOTTE OF WALES.



# MEMOIRS

OF THE

## House of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld.

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PREVIOUSLY to the treaty of Congress, signed at Vienna in 1815, the possessions of the house of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld comprised  $17\frac{1}{2}$  German square miles, with a population, according to the census taken in 1812, of 57,266 souls. They contain eight towns and 270 villages and hamlets. The revenues of the prince amounted in 1806 to 425,413 florins, or near 50,000*l.* sterling\*. The inhabitants as well as the reigning family, belong to the Lutheran church, and are chiefly employed in trade and manufactures. The above-mentioned treaty secures to the duke of Coburg-Saalfeld, an additional territory of such extent as to comprise 20,000

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\* It gives me great pleasure to be able to furnish these data, which are extracted from STORCH'S *Staats und Adress Handbuch* (Weimar, 1843), as they afford the most satisfactory refutation of the sneers in which some persons have ignorantly indulged on the subject of the pecuniary resources of the House of Coburg.

inhabitants, so that his dominions and resources will be increased by about one-third.

We have seen that all the ducal houses of Saxony, are branches of the elder or *Ernestine* line, which, without regard to primogeniture, long retained the custom of dividing the possessions left by the father among all his sons. In process of time, however, the law of primogeniture began to be adopted, but it was not introduced into the house of Saxe-Coburg till the reign of FRANCIS JOSIAS, in the middle of the 18th century.

This prince, the great grandfather of the reigning duke, was respected by his neighbours as a man of the highest integrity, and beloved by his subjects as an excellent sovereign. These qualities caused him to be intrusted with the guardianship of some of the princes of the kindred houses of Saxony during their minority. He had four sons. The eldest, who succeeded him, married the princess *Sophie Antoinette*, sister to the celebrated prince Ferdinand, of Brunswick, as also to the queen of Denmark, to the consort of Frederic the Great, and to the grandmother of the present king of Prussia. By this union the house of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld became nearly allied to most of the reigning families in

Europe, to which it was not previously related. Its connections were still farther extended by the marriage of the two daughters of this prince, the elder, *Sophia*, to the duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin (by whom she was mother to the present duke), and the younger, *Amelia*, to Alexander, margrave of Brandenburg-Anspach and Bayreuth.

The three younger sons of duke Francis Josias devoted themselves to the profession of arms. Prince *Christian*, the elder, entered into the Austrian service, and during the seven years' war attained to considerable military distinctions, when ill health compelled him to quit the army and return to Coburg.

*Adolphus*, the third son, fell whilst very young, as colonel of a Saxon regiment of carbineers in the first Silesian war.

The fourth and youngest of these brothers was *Frederic Josias*, the celebrated commander of the allied armies at the commencement of the war of the French revolution. He entered at the beginning of the seven years' war into the Austrian service. Though then very young, the empress-queen, Maria Theresa, intrusted him with the command of the

Anspach regiment of cuirassiers. He signalized himself by his courage in various engagements, and was wounded in the battle of Collin. Highly esteemed by the imperial court for his mild amiable character, his valour, probity, and talents, he soon arrived at promotions and honours. Both in Galicia and Hungary, where he was invested with the chief military command, an appointment of very great importance, he was beloved and respected; indeed his memory is still reserved by the Hungarians, who have not forgotten the protection which he afforded, to the utmost of his power, to the numerous Protestants resident in that country. When the emperor Joseph II. commenced the last Turkish war, he assembled a particularly fine army, of near 100,000 men, and directed his efforts to the reduction of Belgrade. This army was commanded under the emperor, by field-marshal Laudohn. The prince of Coburg was placed at the head of a corps of 18,000 men, destined partly to cover the grand army, and partly to make a diversion in Wallachia and Moldavia, by which also it was designed to establish a communication with the Russians, whose main force was engaged with Oczakow, and some

other fortresses. At the same time that the prince was detached with his corps from the Austrian grand army, general Suworoff was detached with the like views from the Russian. The service upon which these two distinguished commanders were sent, soon produced an intimate friendship between them, which death alone interrupted. To them belongs the glory of the highly brilliant campaign which brought the war to such a speedy termination. Continually united in their operations, they reduced the whole of Moldavia and Wallachia, and repeatedly vanquished the army of the grand-vizier, though four times as strong as their own. The most decisive of these victories occurred at Focksan and Martinestie. While Coburg and Suworoff were thus gaining victory after victory, and deciding the issue of the war, the imperial grand army had uselessly lost the flower of its troops in unimportant actions, and by disease; and was therefore necessitated to relinquish the honour of the campaign to prince Frederic Josias alone. The emperor then appointed the prince to conduct the negotiations for peace with the Porte, and rewarded his services with the rank of field-marshal and the grand cross

of the order of Maria Theresa, instituted for military merit,—a distinction the more valuable on account of the difficulty of earning it, and the sparing hand with which it is conferred.

About this time commenced the war of the French revolution and the troubles in the Netherlands. Leopold, who had now ascended the imperial throne, summoned the prince of Coburg to the chief command of the allied army in the Netherlands, on which occasion the prince was also nominated field-marshal of the empire. With this appointment no commander except the archduke Charles alone has since been invested. The campaign of the prince, though obstructed by various difficulties, partly thrown in the way by the court of Vienna itself, was nevertheless attended with the best success against the French. The young emperor Francis II. honoured the prince with his confidence in a high degree; at the same time the latter found means to keep up the best understanding with the rest of the allies—a circumstance universally acknowledged at the time, and which must still be remembered by the duke of York, and many English officers under his command.

The victory of Neerwinden, the reduction of Valenciennes, and other achievements of prince Frederic, are too well known to need recapitulation. The emperor Francis who quitted the army about this period, rewarded him with the diamond star of the order of Maria Theresa, which had been last worn by the renowned Laudohn.

How terrible the name of prince Frederic had become to the republican French, is evinced by the well-known form of accusation: *Complice de Pitt et Cobourg*—a form which sealed the doom of thousands of unfortunate victims, and in which democracy associated together the names of those whom it considered as its two most dangerous enemies.

Prince Frederic finding his plans and suggestions disregarded, or even impediments opposed to their execution, resigned the command, to the great mortification of the army, which was strongly attached to him, because he treated it in every respect like a father. Clairfait was appointed his successor, but with the departure of the prince, fortune also seemed to have forsaken the banners of the allies. He retired to his native city, where he attained to a se-

rene old age, and terminated his glorious career in February, 1815, in his 76th year, deeply lamented by his family, and sincerely mourned by all those who were acquainted with his amiable disposition and estimable qualities. To him might justly be applied the expression of the poet, that—

his age was as a lusty winter,

Frosty but kindly.

Duke ERNEST FREDERIC had, by his consort, *Sophie Antoinette*, of Brunswick, three children, two sons and one daughter.

FRANCIS, his eldest son and successor, made the science of government his peculiar study. With a clear understanding he united a truly philanthropic heart and rare attainments, acquired in the indulgence of an ardent passion for the sciences and fine arts, of which, till his death, he was a zealous patron and admirer.

*Lewis*, the second son, served under his uncle Frederic Josias, as an Austrian general, and died in the prime of life, at Coburg, in 1807.

Duke Francis had three sons and four daughters by his consort, a princess of the ancient and celebrated house of the counts Reuss of Plauen. Gifted with a superior understanding, and adorned



with rare accomplishments, this princess unites all the softness of her own sex with the firmness of the other. Undaunted by the storms of fate she never lost sight for a moment of her destination as a wife and a mother. Amid the various pursuits to which her genius inclined, this extraordinary woman made the most careful education of her numerous family the business, the recreation, and the happiness of her life. The tender attachment which subsists between all the surviving members of the house of Coburg is her work, her highest glory, and at the same time the surest test of the excellence of her own heart and of those of her children.

By the marriage of the third daughter of duke Francis, who was united by the name of *Anna Feodorowna* to the grand-duke Constantine, eldest brother of the emperor Alexander, the house of Coburg became intimately connected with the court of Russia. In consequence of this alliance the empress Catherine II. gave a military appointment to the hereditary prince, *Ernest*, and destined also *Leopold*, the youngest son of duke Francis, for the Russian service. The latter, to whom the emperor

Leopold II. stood sponsor, had been originally designed for the Austrian service, but the early death of his majesty prevented the fulfilment of these intentions.

*Ferdinand*, the second son of duke Francis, however entered into the Austrian service, under the auspices of his great-uncle, the field-marshal.

The political convulsion, which, in 1806, involved the whole north of Germany, was attended with consequences peculiarly calamitous to the house of Coburg. When, in the autumn of that year, the French approached the Saxon frontiers, duke Francis who was in very ill health, retired with his consort from Coburg to Saalfeld; which latter town is situated beyond the very considerable range of mountains, known by the appellation of the Forest of Thuringia, and forming the barrier of North Germany. Prince Leopold, then but fifteen years old, was the companion and the support of his infirm father: for Ferdinand was detained by his duty in Austria, and the truly German spirit of prince Ernest had carried him to the head-quarters of the king of Prussia, with whom he had been for some years on terms of the closest friendship. The French ap-

peared before Saalfeld; the castle was stormed; and the ducal family which was in it, exposed to all the dangers and horrors of that disastrous battle, which cost prince Lewis Ferdinand of Prussia his life. This was more than the constitution of duke Francis, already so much impaired by disease, was capable of supporting; he sunk under the accumulation of misfortunes, and died in the beginning of December, to the profound grief of his family and country, which were left by his decease in a truly disconsolate situation.

No sooner was Buonaparte informed that the hereditary prince ERNEST, now duke of Coburg, was at the Prussian head-quarters, than he issued a proclamation declaring him his particular enemy, and caused formal possession to be taken of his territories. A French *intendant* and *commandant* were appointed exclusively for Coburg; all the property belonging to the ducal family was seized, and a very heavy contribution imposed upon the country, which had already suffered most severely from the passage of great part of the French army, from the battle at Saalfeld, and from the consequent plunder of the town and environs.

During this period of distress, prince Leopold remained with his afflicted mother, who, but for him would have been entirely deserted, attentively watching over the interests of his family.

Duke Ernest, the faithful companion of the king of Prussia in the eventful battle of Auerstädt, proved on that occasion to his enemies how ardent a love of German independence and how lofty a principle of honour resided within his bosom. He would rather have sacrificed himself and his own possessions, than have deserted the cause of his royal friend in his adversity. One night—that night of unparalleled rout, confusion, and dismay, which at the same time enveloped all the duke's prospects in hopeless despair—he rode with the king between the French watch-fires towards the Harz. He kept constantly with the king when almost every one else had abandoned him; he accompanied his Majesty to the dreary wilds of Poland, to Königsberg, and Memel; and as if fate had been determined to put his constancy to every possible trial, he was there seized with the epidemic nervous fever, from which he had a very narrow escape with his life.

It was not till the peace of Tilsit, that by a parti-

cular stipulation, the house of Saxo-Coburg-Saalfeld was reinstated in its possessions. Duke Ernest, however, on his return to his capital, found the finances dilapidated by the French authorities, various institutions, which before the war were in a flourishing state, entirely ruined, and his country to the last degree impoverished.

Though now under French supremacy, and strictly watched by Buonaparte, the princes of the house of Coburg stedfastly adhered to the principles prescribed to them by their ardent patriotism, and their high sense of honour, truth, and justice ; nay, they were not even at the pains to conceal from the oppressor of Germany, that the deliverance of their native land was and ever would be under every circumstance, the sacred object of their persevering exertions. Such is frequently the power of right, that Buonaparte himself, though he knew but too well the sentiments of these princes, and kept a particularly vigilant eye upon them, still could not help doing complete justice to the sincerity of the brothers, and therefore treated them with marked distinction when they visited Paris upon business relative to their house.

In 1808, duke Ernest went to Russia, and resided there for some time. During his absence, prince Leopold devoted his assiduous attention to the administration of the duchy. Since that period his brother has never failed to consult him on all concerns, whether internal or external, of the house of Coburg; and whenever he has not been himself absent on his travels, he has exclusively superintended various branches of the administration.

In the same year prince Leopold accompanied the emperor of Russia, and his brother-in-law the grand-duke Constantine, to the interview which Napoleon had appointed at Erfurt.

In 1809, when Austria was again involved in war, Buonaparte, who watched the princes of the house of Coburg more narrowly than ever, insisted, with his peculiar vehemence, that prince Ferdinand should quit the Austrian service. As he had probably been informed about the same time that supplies of arms were going from Coburg to Bohemia, he dispatched a minister named Bacher for the purpose of making a strict inquiry into the affair. This man was ordered to repeat the demand respecting prince Ferdinand, accompanied with the menace that if he

should be taken as an Austrian soldier, during the campaign, he should infallibly be tried by a French council of war. The efforts of this minister to accomplish his master's purpose proved unsuccessful.

The rigid investigation set on foot concerning the *depôts* of arms led to no result, because they had fortunately been already sent off to Bohemia, and prince Ferdinand seemed to consider the last message of Napoleon as a challenge to fight with more desperate resolution than he had ever shewn against his inveterate enemy. This determination was clearly evinced in the wounds which he received during the campaign. Under these circumstances, and as Napoleon became better acquainted with the active exertions of the brothers against him, it was no wonder that he should grow more jealous of these princes and more attentive to their proceedings. In consequence of this mistrust, he repeated in 1810, his demand that prince Ferdinand should retire from the Austrian service, and this time with the additional requisition that prince Leopold also should quit the Russian army, in which he had been a general ever since 1803. : Champagny, who was then minister, and to whom was referred under

the mediation of Russia, a question concerning the adjustment of the limits of the principality of Coburg, expressed but too plainly the sentiments of his master in these words, *que l'empereur ne ferait rien pour ses ennemis.*

Whoever knows the power with which such an exorcism was calculated to operate at that time on a German prince will not fail to admire the firmness of prince Leopold, who after this declaration still hoped that he should not be obliged to leave the Russian service, and went to Paris to remonstrate on the subject. He there found the government highly incensed at such refractory behaviour, to which France was certainly not accustomed on the part of the German princes of the Confederation of the Rhine; and he was bluntly assured that in case of his farther refusal to comply, Napoleon would be necessitated to take the possessions of the house of Coburg from his brother, the reigning duke. The affections of the prince were not proof against this threat; it produced the desired effect, and Leopold sacrificed his own inclination and his brilliant military prospects to the welfare of his family. The emperor of Russia granted his request, that he



might tacitly retain his military rank, till better times should permit him publicly to resume it.

Obstructed in the career which he had marked out for himself, prince Leopold declined all the offers of military charges made to him from the west, and devoted himself with so much the more assiduity to the affairs of his house, and to the arts and sciences. In 1811, he negotiated with the crown of Bavaria, at Munich, a frontier arrangement, of considerable importance to the principality of Coburg, and likewise, under the then circumstances, to the whole south of Saxony—a business which from the complicated interests that it involved, was attended with infinite difficulty. The diplomatic talents of the prince, however, at length succeeded in adjusting the differences by the conclusion of a convention with Bavaria.

When, towards the end of 1811, the political horizon began to be once more overcast, and a new prospect of a happier result was afforded, prince Leopold, unable any longer to endure his constrained inactivity, again tendered his services to the emperor of Russia. Alexander, apprehensive lest a premature step might endanger his family, begged

to defer the fulfilment of his wish to a more seasonable time. The prince having thus failed in the object upon which he was exclusively bent, in order to withdraw himself from the observation of the French government, set out at the beginning of 1812, on a distant tour, and travelled to Vienna, Italy, and Switzerland.

At the commencement of 1813, the three brothers of the house of Coburg exerted themselves, as far as their situation permitted, to prepare the emancipation of Germany. Such were the zeal and the openness of their proceedings, that the French government, incensed in the highest degree, only waited for the moment of a favourable turn in the political state of affairs to wreak its utmost vengeance. In despite of its rage, however, the reigning duke, Ernest, repaired to Berlin, where he had no inconsiderable influence upon the personal resolutions of the king, in consequence of which he sent his brother Ferdinand to Vienna. Prince Leopold went to Munich, to pave the way for happy changes, and in February proceeded to Poland, to the emperor of Russia, who received him with cordial friendship. Here he communicated to field-marshal Kutusoff

much important information respecting the state of things in Germany, and the condition of the French army, and thus acquired the immortal honour of being the *first prince* of the then-existing confederation of the Rhine, who openly declared against France.

The allied army now marched from Poland to Silesia and Saxony. On the 2d of May, prince Leopold was in the battle of Lützen, and the following day with the Russian cavalry formed part of the rear-guard. The prince was afterwards sent in forced marches toward the Elbe, to the support of the Prussian general Kleist, but his destination was changed, and he returned to Lusatia.

On the 19th of May, the prince marched to the support of general Barclay, but was recalled to assist on the 20th and 21st in the battle of Bautzen. In this engagement he was employed in supporting the line on various points, and in the evening of the second day, he covered the retreat, amidst the hottest fire, with that serenity which is the property of genuine courage. After the battle he retired to Silesia with the corps of cavalry to which he was attached.

During the armistice, and the negotiations at Prague, prince Leopold repaired with the consent of the emperor of Russia, to that city, and was the *only* stranger who was there admitted to several interviews with the emperor Francis.

On the expiration of the armistice, the prince proceeded with the army to Bohemia, and thence to the frontiers of Saxony. The main force of the allies was already before Dresden, while the cavalry reserve was engaged in the more difficult march across the mountains. On the 26th of August, Vandamme briskly attacked the corps posted near the fortress of Königstein to cover the rear of the grand army, and the principal communications with Bohemia, and commanded by prince Eugene of Wirtemberg. This general urgently solicited a reinforcement of cavalry, that he might be enabled to maintain his highly important position against a very superior enemy; and about noon, prince Leopold was in consequence detached with his cuirassiers to his assistance. Scarcely had the prince joined the corps when the enemy commenced the attack. The infantry, on account of its weakness, was posted on the wings, and supported upon two villages; while

prince Leopold and his cavalry formed the centre. This precarious position did Leopold maintain, during a contest of five hours against a foe three or four times as numerous, and after the two wings of the corps were almost completely surrounded, with such unshaken intrepidity, that night came on before the enemy had been able to gain any decisive advantage, or force the position. Eugene paid that tribute to the prince which he amply deserved, for by his firmness he had not only saved the whole corps, but rendered it impossible for Vandamme to make an attack, either in flank or rear, on the main army of the allies engaged on the 27th of August with the assault of Dresden, which would necessarily have been attended with the most disastrous consequences.

On the 27th of August, the corps took a position on the other side of Pirna. As the importance of the action of the 26th, and the possibility of a less fortunate result was sensibly felt at the head-quarters; the first division of the Russian guards, under the brave general Yermolof, and the regiment of hussars of the guard, were sent to reinforce the corps at Pirna. The whole was placed

under the orders of count Ostermann, who gave to prince Leopold the command of the cavalry of the combined corps.

The enemy stormed Pirna, and sought with his cavalry to extend himself upon the level ground near the Elbe, when prince Leopold met and drove him back into the town, from which he did not again attempt to debouch; as the dreadful weather which was one cause of the retreat of the grand army, prevented any thing more decisive than an incessant skirmishing.

The same night, count Ostermann's corps received information that the grand allied army was in full retreat to Bohemia, and that the road from Dresden along the Elbe was now open to the enemy. This corps was placed by this event in a very perilous situation; for with its left wing on the Elbe, Dresden, whence the enemy was approaching, in its rear, and its left wing on the main road to Bohemia which was already occupied by the French, it had but one road left for its retreat, and this was commanded by the fire of its adversary.

Count Ostermann now ordered prince Leopold

to proceed, if possible, with his cavalry through the defile, upon which the right wing was supported, and to occupy and maintain a plain near Great Cotta, which is traversed by the main road to the woody range of mountains. Leopold executed the movement with such rapidity, that the enemy had not time to occupy this plain in sufficient force; he drove him from it, and maintained his position there till the main body of the corps, with the infantry and all the artillery, had effected its retreat. The enemy had meanwhile reached, by a shorter route, and occupied some of the heights and passes in the mountains, and thus almost intercepted the prince and his cavalry; but with great difficulty he forced his way through, and on this occasion rescued many wounded of the infantry of the Russian guard, who had heroically stormed the passes.

The position of Peterswalde was the last that Ostermann's corps could take in the mountains to afford time for the retreat of the main army; and it was therefore successfully maintained, though not without considerable effort. Here the assembled generals received intelligence that the main army was still in the mountains, and that the grand head-

quarters of the allies were yet at Altenberg, in Saxony. It was therefore determined to cover the road to Töplitz, in order to gain the grand army as much time as possible for debouching.

On the 29th of August the troops were accordingly to have continued their march at a very early hour; but before they could break up, the French cavalry, supported by a very considerable division of infantry, attacked the village of Peterswalde, which was occupied as the advanced guard of the line of encampment with infantry, pushed forward through it, and was on the point of falling upon the columns that were about to march, when prince Leopold came up with his cavalry and drove back the enemy into the defile. He then maintained the little plain near Peterswalde, till the infantry and artillery had retired to the position of Nollendorf, and then caused his cavalry to fall back *en echelons*. He was himself nearly taken, with the last division, but he cut his way through and rejoined the main body of the corps, which, but for the successful attack of the prince, would probably have been totally intercepted. This action doubtless gave rise to the false report in one of Napoleon's bulletins, subsequent to the



affairs near Dresden, that prince Leopold had been made prisoner by the French.

Ostermann's corps, though considerably diminished, now proceeded in the best order down the declivity of the mountains into the plains of Bohemia. The left wing, which was supported upon the mountains, was formed by the infantry; in the centre, through which ran the high road, was stationed the greatest part of the artillery, and the right wing, composed of prince Leopold's cavalry, occupied an open plain. As the chief object was to gain time, every advantageous spot of ground, which was capable of detaining the enemy ever so little, was defended with the utmost obstinacy. Prince Leopold therefore manœuvred with his cavalry *en echiquier*, and never withdrew to a new position, which it was necessary to take every sixty or one hundred paces, till the *tirailleurs* of the infantry had fallen back into the intervals of his order of battle. The enemy, who renewed his attacks with increased impetuosity, made an extraordinary effort to force the last position of the corps near the village of Prisen, with a tremendously superior artillery. The loss of this position would have rendered the retreat of the main

allied army from the mountains in a great measure impracticable ; it was therefore imperatively necessary that it should be maintained to the very last man. As the French general Corbineau was advancing to attack prince Leopold, with a corps of cavalry at least thrice as numerous, the prince went to meet and repulsed him. The French general, staggered by the intrepidity of his opponents, though so inferior in number, lost the decisive moment of victory ; and as the prince received a considerable reinforcement of cavalry, and fresh troops continued to arrive from the mountains, he was enabled to maintain his position till night.

On the morning of the 30th of August, before the conflict was renewed, prince Leopold received, on the field of battle, from the emperor of Russia, the cross of commander of the military order of St. George, for his conduct during the preceding days.

Soon afterwards commenced the attack upon Vandamme, who was surrounded by the allied army now nearly concentrated. Prince Leopold, who was this day engaged upon the extreme wing, pursued the enemy to Peterswalde, and did not rejoin

the main army till night. The victory over Vandamme was necessarily dependent on the operations of Ostermann's corps: for had this corps been broken on the 29th of August, the French would have been masters of all the *debouchés*, by which alone the grand allied army could retreat to Bohemia; and the greatest part of the army, and the whole of the artillery, which it would have been absolutely impossible to carry off on account of the badness of the roads, must infallibly have been lost. What incalculable disasters, military and political, must have resulted from such an event, is sufficiently obvious to every reader. On the other hand the consequences of this victory were most important: Vandamme was taken, together with almost all his generals, nearly the whole of his infantry, consisting of fifty-two battalions, and all his artillery, amounting to nearly 100 pieces of cannon, whilst but a small remnant of his corps, including the cavalry, effected its escape.

The other allied sovereigns, as well as the emperor Alexander, acknowledged with the greatest satisfaction the important part which prince Leopold had contributed to the success of the

operations between the 26th and 30th of August ; and for his conduct during this interval he was afterwards presented with the Austrian military order of Maria Theresa\*.

In the beginning of October the allied army returned to Saxony.

On the 16th of October, the first day of the battle of Leipzig, when the enemy had made a general, and not unsuccessful attack with cavalry upon the centre of the main army posted near the villages of Magdeborn and Cossa, the honourable service of covering not only this important point, but also the Russian batteries planted opposite to those of the French, was allotted to prince Leopold, who on this occasion lost a great number of his men. On the 17th he continued in the same position, and had already received orders for the attack of the enemy's batteries, when it was deferred till the following day, on account of the non-arrival of several corps which were expected. On the 18th,

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\* Besides the orders mentioned in these pages, the prince possesses six or eight honourable distinctions of the same kind, conferred by the sovereigns of Russia, Prussia, Bavaria, and other princes.

the last and decisive day of this gigantic conflict, the prince pushed on with his cavalry in the centre, to the environs of Leipzig. In the afternoon, when the left wing under general Coloredo was very furiously attacked by the French, it was asked what cavalry would go to the support of this wing. Though a greater force was wanted than Leopold had with him, he nevertheless offered himself, as there was no Austrian cavalry at hand, and went to the assistance of Coloredo. On the 19th he marched to the support of general Giulay, and followed the advanced guard and this corps to the vicinity of Erfurt.

The prince then proceeded to Frankfurt, where he remained during the residence of the allied sovereigns in that city, and afterwards went through Swabia and Switzerland to France. Here he was detached on the 30th of January, 1814, to the support of field-marshal Blücher and general Rajefsky to Rizaucourt, whence he returned on the 1st of February to the grand army. From a *bivouac* near Bar-sur-Aube he marched to the battle of Brienne, and assisted on the 2d to pursue the beaten enemy to Lesmont. The prince then marched to Bar-sur-

Seine and Troyes, and afterwards to Nogent-sur-Seine, Tramel, and Braye, whence the army again retreated.

In the plains in advance of Troyes, the whole of the cavalry made some demonstrations against the enemy, but no affair of any consequence ensued. On the 23d of February the prince formed the rear guard at Troyes; the army had a position behind the Seine, and then fell back to Chaumont.

On the 12th of March, the prince, as well as the greater part of the Russian troops belonging to the main army, advanced upon the road to Vitry. After the French had recovered Rheims and occupied Chalons, the prince formed the advanced guard towards the roads leading to those places. In this service the troops, already extremely fatigued by the repeated night marches and incessant manœuvres in an exhausted and desolated country, and continually harassed moreover by the armed peasants, who were particularly troublesome in Champagne, had to endure extraordinary hardships and inconveniences.

Till the 20th of March the enemy was daily expected to make a general attack upon the right

wing of the army, which therefore occupied all its positions in readiness for battle. When, however, the enemy on the 20th suddenly retired from the Marne to the Aube, the allied troops of the right wing marched to the left upon Arcis, by which movement the main army effected its junction. The French now made a very impetuous attack, which the allied army repulsed with the greatest firmness, on which occasion the prince had to support the right wing. On the morning of the 21st, Leopold was sent forward with his cavalry, part of the Prussian guard, and a reinforcement of horse artillery to form a communication with the corps of the prince-royal of Wirtemberg, which had not yet come completely into line. The enemy, apparently deterred from an attack upon the allies by their excellent position, occupied Arcis as a rear-guard position, and retired upon the road to Vitry. At night-fall the allied army also marched again to the left bank of the Aube, and then likewise directed its course towards the Marne, when the prince formed the support of the advanced guard upon Vitry.

On the 24th of March the allied army took the

road to Paris, and on the 25th its advanced guard attacked marshal Marmont at la Fère Champenoise. The prince being sent with his cavalry to the support of this advanced guard, attacked the enemy in the right flank at Connentrail, drove him from his position, and took five pieces of cannon. Being joined by the rest of the allied cavalry, he followed the marshal from position to position, and did not desist from the pursuit, even when the greatest part of the allied cavalry was recalled against the corps of general Pactod. Marshals Marmont and Mortier, who had by this time formed a junction, profiting by the consequent weakness of the pursuers, sent their cavalry to attack the artillery of the Russian guard. Prince Leopold took this attack in flank, drove back the French cavalry to an elevated position which the marshals had occupied, saved the Russian artillery, and in spite of a very brisk fire maintained his post till night.

The troops of the grand army were not again engaged till the battle of Paris. On the 31st of March, prince Leopold entered Paris with the reserve cavalry, and there remained in garrison. He accompanied the sovereigns to England, and



sailed with them in the Impregnable from Boulogne to Dover. He continued here about a month after the sovereigns, and did not leave England till the end of July.

In the beginning of September he repaired to Vienna, to the Congress, for the purpose of promoting to the utmost of his power the independence of his native land and the interests of his family.

Leopold's politics, sound as his understanding and his heart, could not chime in with all the maxims which were broached there. He could not, above all, convince himself, that it was just to sacrifice the right of one to the convenience and power of another ; and though he duly weighed the many clashing political interests, he found it impossible to admit the paramount cogency of those reasons upon which the partition of Saxony was decreed.

The Congress acknowledged the services which the princes of the house of Coburg had never ceased, during the last ten years, to render to the good cause, as well as the sacrifices that had been made by them, and therefore granted an indemnity, which, though afterwards diminished by imperious

political considerations, was nevertheless not inconsiderable. This business was exclusively conducted by prince Leopold during the last decisive months, and to him alone is to be ascribed its happy issue.

On the return of Buonaparte to France, prince Leopold hastened from Vienna to the grand allied army on the Rhine, which soon afterwards reached Paris. On the termination of the war, the affairs of his family detained him for some time in the French capital, after which he proceeded by way of Coburg to Berlin, and here it was that the invitation of the Prince-Regent intimated to him the high destiny to which he was called.

Though the preceding biographical notices would, without any further observations, furnish the attentive observer with a correct outline of this prince's character, yet the delineation of his moral qualities is wanting to complete a most attractive and interesting picture.

In his early youth, he manifested an excellent understanding and a tender and a benevolent heart. As he advanced in years he displayed a strong attachment to literary and scientific pursuits, and even at that time all his actions were marked

with dignified gravity and unusual moderation. His propensity to study was seconded by the efforts of an excellent instructor, and as he remained a stranger to all those dissipations with which persons of his age and rank are commonly indulged, his attainments, so early as his fifteenth year, were very extensive. His extraordinary capacity particularly unfolded itself in the study of the languages, history, mathematics, botany, music, and drawing, in which last he has made a proficiency that would be creditable to a professor.

The vicissitudes which he was so early destined to experience, seem only to have contributed to preserve the purity of his morals; and they have certainly had a most powerful influence in the development of that rare moderation, that ardent love of justice, and that manly firmness which are the predominant traits in the character of this prince.

Necessitated in like manner at so early an age to attend to a variety of diplomatic business, he acquired partly in this school, and partly in his extensive travels, a thorough knowledge of men in all their relations; and though his experience has not always been of the most agreeable

species, still it has not been able to warp the kindness and benevolence of his nature.

In his campaigns, and in the field of battle, where all false greatness disappears, Leopold has given the most undeniable proofs that courage, and a profound sense of religion and liberty, are innate in his soul ; and that clear intelligence and unshaken fortitude are his securest possessions. With such qualities of the head and heart, with a character and principles that so completely harmonize with the feelings, the notions, nay even the prejudices of the British nation, this illustrious prince authorizes us to anticipate, from his union with the heiress to the throne, results equally conducive to the welfare of the people at large, and to the happiness of that distinguished family of which he is become a member.

THE END.

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